

# UTTAR PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



## BALLIA

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**State Editor**

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DISTRICT BALLIA

## PREFACE

This is the thirty-ninth series of the revised gazetteers of the districts of Uttar Pradesh which are being published under a scheme jointly sponsored and financed by the Union and State Governments. The first official document of this type relating to the area covered by the Ballia district, was published in 1884 known as the *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Volume XIII, Part III, (Allahabad, 1884) by D. T. Roberts, A. Robinson and F. H. Fisher and after which came *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh* (Allahabad, 1891) by A. Fuhrer. In 1905 an account of the district appeared in the *Imperial Gazetteer, United Provinces, Benaras Division*, and in 1907 was published H. R. Nevill's *Ballia : A Gazetteer* (being Vol. XXX of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces) which was supplemented by Volumes B, C and D in 1914, 1927 and 1935 respectively. The different sources utilised in the preparation of the present gazetteer have been indicated in the bibliography which appears at the end of the book.

I should like to place on record my sincere thanks to chairman and members of the State Advisory Board, Dr P. N. Chopra, Editor, Indian Gazetteer, Central Gazetteer Unit, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi and to all those officials and non-officials who have helped in bringing out this volume.

LUCKNOW

June 25, 1979

DR PARMANAND MISHRA

## FOREWORD

The revised Gazetteer of district Ballia is in your hands. The delays between the writing, printing, and final publication of this Gazetteer are regrettable indeed. These were for many causes at various levels and are not excused for that account. Ordinarily, the delays could be explained away or ignored, but such as attempt would only weaken our resolve and effectiveness in future. It will remain our concern to go deep into our lapses, hoping that our admissions would work towards better and timely results.

2. The Gazetteer could also have been up-dated with the figures of the Census of 1981 but this would hold up its publication by some more years. District Gazetteer department is presently short of hands and there is a sizable lag of work of other districts. We are also foregoing the pleasure of a multi-coloured map and other frills in our haste to place this volume before the public. It is hoped that problems of the department will also be soon sorted out, our aims clarified, budget increased so that the Supplements to all the present Gazetteers based on latest socio-economic data are published within the decade.

3. The volume presents a broad and reliable profile useful for public concerned with the general affairs of the district. The Gazetteers are also much sought after documents containing material, widely acknowledged as primary source of information, on the geography, society and economy of the district.

4. Needless to say we will be obliged if suggestions for the improvement of the Gazetteer in the light of our common experience of forty years of nation's independence, are sent to the department.

15th January, 1988  
Jawahar Bhavan, Lucknow

**D. S. RAWAT**  
IAS.  
STATE EDITOR



# CHAPTER I

## GENERAL

### Origin of Name of District

The origin of the name of the district, Ballia, has long been a matter of dispute. It is locally said to have been derived from the name of the sage Valmiki, the celebrated Hindu poet and the author of the *Ramayana*, whose having resided here was commemorated, by a shrine which has long been washed away. Another belief about the origin of the name is that it has been derived from the sandy nature of the land of the place, locally known as 'ballua' (*balu* meaning sand).

### Location, Boundaries, Area and Population

**Location and Boundaries**—The district is the easternmost part of the State and borders on Bihar State. It comprises an irregularly shaped tract extending westward from the confluence of the Ganga and the Ghaghra, the former separating it from Bihar in the south and the latter from Deoria and Bihar in the north and east respectively. The boundary between Ballia and Bihar is determined by the deep streams of these two rivers. It is bounded on the west by Azamgarh, on the north by Deoria, on the north-east and south-east by Bihar and on the south-west by Ghazipur. The district lies between the parallels of 25°33' and 26°11' North latitudes and 83°38' and 84°39' East longitudes.

**Area**—According to the central statistical organisation, the district had an area of 3,183 sq. km. on July 1, 1971, and occupied the 51st position in the State in respect of area.

**Population**—According to the census of 1971, the district occupied the 26th position in the State in respect of population which was 15,88,935 of which 7,84,514 were females. The rural areas were inhabited by 15,16,175 persons, 7,50,920 being females and the urban by 72,760 (females being 33,594).

### History of District as Administrative Unit

The history of the district of Ballia begins with the year 1879. Asaf-ud-Daula, the nawab vizier of Avadh, made a formal cession of the sovereignty of the province of Benaras (Varanasi) to the East India Company in 1775. The tract was included in the zamindari of the raja and remained in his actual possession till 1794, when Raja Mahip Narayan Singh surrendered its control

to the governor general by the agreement of October 27 of that year. In 1818 the pargana of Doaba, which had been a part of Biha in district Shahabad of Bihar, was transferred to the revenue subdivision of Ghazipur which shortly afterwards was separated from Benaras (Varanasi) and became an independent district and then comprised the whole of Ballia also. In 1832 a redistribution of territory was made and pargana Sikandarpur and probably Bhadaon were assigned to Azamgarh and again in 1837 portions of Kopachit and Kharid were assigned to the same district. For some time no further changes took place and the Ballia tahsil, comprising the Ballia, Doaba and Kharid parganas, formed a subdivision of Ghazipur. On November 1, 1879, a new district, that of Ballia, was created by adding to the old subdivision the parganas of Lakhnesar and Kopachit from the Rasra tahsil and those of Bhadaon and Sikandarpur from tahsil Nagra of Azamgarh. These parganas constituted a new tahsil with headquarters at Rasra. On April 10, 1882, a third tahsil, Bansdih, was formed out of pargana Kharid and 225 villages of Sikandarpur, to which was given the name of Sikandarpur East. At the same time 212 villages of Kopachit were transferred to Ballia and made into the new pargana of Kopachit East. On April 1, 1883, a further addition was made by uniting tappa Dhaka of pargana Zahurabad with Sikandarpur West and a year later on November 18, 13 villages of Lakhnesar, lying on the right bank of the Saryu and surrounded by some villages of Ghazipur, were given back to that district. The last important change took place on March 9, 1892, when 168 villages of pargana Garha, together with Saraikota of Muhammadabad, were made over to Ballia and included in the Ballia tahsil. This transfer was supplemented in July of the same year by extending the boundary of Garha so as to include the large village of Narainpur and two others. On June 9, 1892, the village of Diara Khawaspur was transferred from Bhojpur in Bihar to Ballia as the Ganga had left it on the left bank and on January 9, 1896, a still larger area, including the four villages of Bijapura, Sital Patti, Sheopur and Belsipah, was made over to Ballia from Bhojpur. In 1931, under the deep stream rule, 39 villages of pargana Ballia, 11 of pargana Doaba and 15 of pargana Garha lying on the banks of the Ganga were transferred from Ballia to district Bhojpur of Bihar, when 10 villages were also transferred from district Bhojpur (of Bihar) to Ballia.

In 1951 the village of Kondhia was transferred from tahsil Muhammadabad in the Ghazipur district to tahsil Rasra of district Ballia. A further change took place in 1970, when 31 villages were added to tahsil Bansdih from district Saran of Bihar and 14 villages were transferred from tahsil Bansdih to district Saran. At this time 64 villages of district Bhojpur of Bihar and 4 villages of district Saran were added to the Ballia tahsil from which 27 villages were given to district Bhojpur and 3 villages to district Saran.

### **Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas**

The district has three subdivisions—Rasra, Bansdih and Ballia, each forming a tahsil of the same name respectively.

Tahsil and subdivision Rasra is the western subdivision of the district. It is bounded on the south by Ghazipur, on the west by Azamgarh, on the north by the Ghaghra, which separates it from the Deoria district, and on the east by the Bansdih and Ballia tahsils. According to the census of 1971, it had 858 villages and a town and covered an area of 1,095.6 sq. km. with a population of 5,11,112 (females 2,52,450).

Tahsil and subdivision Bansdih lies along the northern boundary of the district, the Ghaghra making its northern boundary for its entire length and separating it from the district of Deoria and the Saran district of Bihar. To its south and east lies tahsil Ballia and on the west tahsil Rasra. According to the census of 1971, it had 792 villages and a town and covered an area of 966.8 sq. km. with a population of 4,54,107 (females 2,26,039).

Tahsil and subdivision Ballia is the southern portion of the district. It is the largest of all the three tahsils of the district. It is irregular in shape and is a long and narrow stretch of country except in the west where its breadth is about 41.6 km. while to the east the breadth from north to south is hardly 4.8 km. The length of the tahsil from east to west is about 67.2 km. It is bounded on the north by the Bansdih tahsil, on the east by the Ghaghra, which separates it from the Saran district of Bihar, on its west lies tahsil Rasra and tahsil Muhammadabad of district Ghazipur and on the south the Ganga makes the boundary beyond which lies the Bhojpur district of Bihar. According to the census of 1971, it had 906 villages and a town and covered an area of 1,148.9 sq. km. Its population was 6,23,716 (females 3,06,025).

**Thanas**—For the purpose of police administration there are 18 thanas in the district each tahsil having 6 thanas.

### TOPOGRAPHY

The district is a level plain, intersected by numerous streams. Though there are no hills, the level surface is varied because of the high banks of the great rivers and the gentle slope from the central watershed towards the Ganga, the Ghaghra and the Saryu. There are depressions of varying depth and extent in which the drainage water collects prior to its draining into the main systems of the river.

The district can be divided into two natural divisions: the interior upland and the lowland tract. In area the two divisions are approximately equal. The upland has an average altitude of 64 m. above sea-level and comprises the western half of the district, including the whole of the Bhadaon, Lakhnesar and Kopachit parganas, most of Sikandarpur, the interior portion of Garha and a narrow strip of land extending eastwards into the Kharid and Ballia parganas. Here the boundary is marked roughly on the south by the railway line as far as Sahatwar and then bends back in a direction generally parallel to that of the

Ghaghra, close to the town of Bansdih, from which place it curves westwards and then north to Maniar, a town standing on the bank of the Ghaghra. There is a second ridge of the same nature near Qutabganj but between these two spots the bed widens out into an extensive alluvial tract. In the west of Qutabganj there is another stretch of low alluvial land, continuing as far as Bilthra, where the high bank touches the river. On the south-west the tracts that are higher terminate in the valley of the Saryu, which has a deep channel of no great width. In the interior the level is only broken by scattered depressions. The soil is for the most part a light loam with a fair admixture of sand. The proportion of sand increases on the higher ridges and the soil becomes very light, though not unfertile. In the depressions the soil is mostly clay and in these tracts paddy is the chief crop. The western portion of the upland is characterised by wide stretches of *usar*, which is very common in the Kopachit, Lakhnesar, Bhadaon parganas and part of the Sikandar-pur pargana.

The lowland tract comprises the rest of the district but is far from being of a uniform character. The main distinction is between the more recent and the ancient alluvium, the former lying near the banks of the river and the latter including those lands which have remained untouched for a long time and are marked by great fertility.

The surface of the lowland is usually very uneven, being scored in every direction by irregular depressions marking the old courses of the rivers, some almost resembling tributary streams and others surviving as narrow lagoons. As a rule the level is about 4.5 metres below that of the upland, though it varies from place to place.

#### RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

There are only three main rivers in the district : the Ghaghra, the Ganga and the Saryu.

#### Rivers

**Ghaghra**—This is a great river and flows on the northern border of the district. It has its origin in the mountains of Kumaon and is formed of the combined waters of the Chauka, the Kauriala, the Rapti and other smaller streams. During the rains it swells to a great extent and as the current becomes very strong and rapid it causes much damage to the adjoining area. The course of the river is interrupted by *kankar* reefs at a few places such as Turtipur, Qutabganj and Ailagarh and the variations in the channel are continuous but the greatest changes are those which occur east of Maniar. In this part of the district the whole tract south of the river is low alluvium which gets submerged during the floods. It includes all the land north of the towns of Bansdih and Reoti. The changes made by the Ghaghra are more

sudden and sweeping than those of the Ganga. The Ghaghra is much more unstable, both in its action and effects. It is generally not possible to predict its course as sometimes it confines itself to a comparatively narrow bed, at others it fans out into several channels, sometimes leaves behind it fertile deposits of land and sometimes nothing but barren and sandy waste.

**Tributaries of Ghaghra**—The Ghaghra receives very little drainage in this district and so its tributaries are insignificant. The first, the Haha or Ahar, is a small stream which joins the Ghaghra about 4.8 km. west of Turtipar after forming for a short distance the boundary between this district and that of Azamgarh. It rises in the Ratoi Tal in pargana Natthupar of Azamgarh and its effect on the drainage is very slight. Another tributary is a small stream, the Bahera, which falls into the Ghaghra near Maniar and drains part of Sikandarpur East. It is a small and unimportant stream and flows into the Mundiari Dah lake and then into the Ghaghra to the east of Maniar. Still another tributary is the Tengraha which is actually a backwater of the Ghaghra. It first leaves the Ghaghra a short distance east of Maniar and flowing through the northern pargana of Kharid in a tortuous course, passes into Doaba and rejoins the main river in the village of Chand Diara.

**Ganga**—The Ganga first touches the boundary of the district in the extreme south of pargana Garha where it flows between Korantadih and Buxar, each of which stands on a high bank of *kankar* formation. From there its course lies through alluvial land. From Buxar eastwards its course is a succession of loops and bends. The permanent banks, which are not subject to erosion, are about 15 to 30 km. apart but between these limits the course of the river is variable. At one place it encroaches on Ballia and a little further down it sweeps round, cutting into Bhojpur and depositing tracts of new alluvium on the north. The changes are great in pargana Doaba, almost the whole of which is submerged during the rains, the silt deposited being of great fertility. In the district the river flows in a north-easterly direction as far as the town of Ballia and from there it turns towards the south-east and after flowing for some distance it turns north-east. Reaching Majhawa it again bends towards the south and after flowing some kilometres it turns east and flows into district Bhojpur (in Bihar).

**Saryu**—The chief tributary of the Ganga in this district is the Saryu which first touches the boundary of the district in pargana Bhadaon and then for several kilometres separates Ballia from Ghazipur. Near Pradhanpur it enters pargana Kopachit West, afterwards flowing in a south-easterly course through Kopachit East and pargana Ballia, and joining the Ganga near Bansthana, about 5 km. west of the town of Ballia.

**Other Streams**—The Mangai river unites with the Saryu before the latter's junction with the Ganga. It enters pargana

Garha from Ghazipur, about 3 km. south of Karaon. It then continues in a north-easterly direction past Narhi and several other large villages, carrying off the drainage of the upland portion of pargana Garha. The Budhi river is another tributary of the Saryu, which joins it near Baragaon. It takes its origin in a chain of *jhils* (in pargana Sikandarpur West) known as Basnahi Tal. It is not a very significant stream. Another stream is the Katehar *nala* which carries off the overflow from Suraha Tal into the Ganga. It leaves the lake on the eastern side and then curves to the south-west, passes to the west of the town of Ballia and then joins the Ganga.

### Lakes

**Surha Tal**—The most important lake in the district is the great Suraha Tal which covers a large area. Its circumference is about 25.6 km. In the deeper parts of the lake, large quantities of the weed called *siwar* are grown. It is drained or filled by the Katehar, which connects it with the Ganga. It also receives a large amount of drainage from the adjoining area. Two small channels on the west, one of which follows the boundary of the Ballia and Kharid parganas and the other, known as the Garari, which flows somewhat to the north, drainage a portion of kharid and Kopachit East, pour their water into this lake.

**Other Lakes**—Among other lakes the largest is the Mundiari Dah, which lies between Maniar and Bansdih. It is of a narrow, semi-circular shape, its overflow passing into the Ghaghra. At times the lake is liable to be inundated by the flood water pouring into it from the north. Reoti Dah, which lies to the west of the town of that name, also pours its water into the Ghaghra. A third lake in the Ghaghra lowlands is that of Sikandarpur, a short distance east of the town. In tahsil Ballia there is Kawal Dah to the north-east of the district headquarters. Tahsil Rasra possesses several lakes such as Garha Tal near Ratanpura and Intaura in pargana Bhadaon, about 5 km. to the west. Others are Taliji Tal to the south of Rasra, Goka Tal, a short distance north of Ratanpura, and an extensive lake near Haldi in the north of the tahsil.

### GEOLOGY

The geology of the district exposes nothing except the ordinary Gangetic alluvium. The mineral products are few being confined to the saline earth from which saltpetre and salt are produced and to the limestone conglomerate known as *kankar*. Saltpetre is found in the Rasra tahsil, though patches are also found elsewhere. *Kankar* is found in all parts of the district except in Doaba and the lower tracts of pargana Ballia. At some places it is found in masses on the surface, at others at a considerable depth and at some places it exists as a solid and compact mass but usually it occurs in small nodules. Often it takes

the form of block *kankar* and in this shape it is quarried at Siha-chaur on the road from Phephna to Rasra. It is used for road metal, for concrete and for producing lime.

### SEISMOLOGY

Ballia is situated in the area where earthquakes of slight to moderate intensity have been experienced in the past. The earthquakes which have affected the area are the Rewa earthquake of 1927 and the Bihar-Nepal earthquake of 1934, the maximum intensity experienced during the latter being VII of the Modified Mercally (MM.) scale (1931).

The occurrence of earthquakes in Ballia district is attributed to various geological and tectonic faults such as the great Himalayan boundary fault, the Vindhyan fault and the Patna fault.

In the seismic zoning map of India, Ballia lies in zone III which corresponds to the seismic intensity of VII MM.

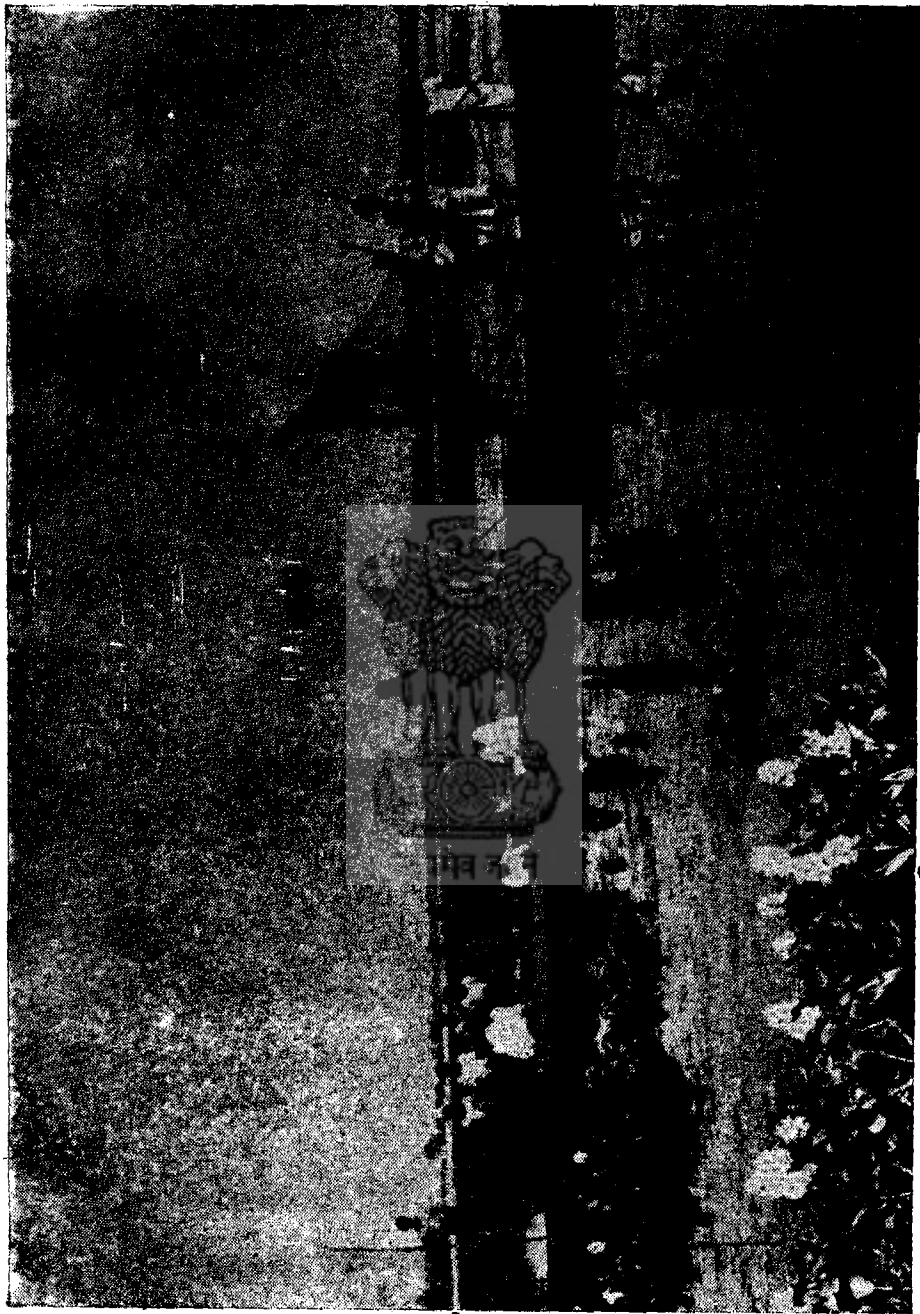
### FLORA

There are no forests in the district but along the great rivers there are numerous expanses of sandy ground covered with *jhanu* or *tamarisk* which afford cover to wild pig and other animals. A few patches of *dhak* (*Butea monosperma*), are also found in the interior of the district. The other trees which are commonly found in the district are *bargad* (*Ficus bengalensis*), *mahua* (*Madhuka indica*), *neem* (*Azadirachta indica*), *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*), *bahera* (*Terminalia bellirica*), *barhal* (*Artocarpus lakoocha*), *bel* (*Aegle marmelos*), *gular* (*Ficus glomerata*), *jamun* (*Syzygium cumini*), *aonla* (*Emblica officinalis*), *kathal* or jack-fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) and *shisham* (*Dalbergia sissoo*). The *tar* or *toddy palm* is abundant, especially in the western parganas.

### FAUNA

Not being endowed with forests, the variety and number of wild animals is limited. The fox (*Vulpus bengalensis*) and jackal (*Canis aurcus*) are common. Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) is found in the lowlands of the Ganga and Ghaghra and black buck (*Antelope caricapra*) in the patches of trees found along the banks of the Ganga, particularly in pargana Doaba. The *nilgai* (blue bull) (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) is found in most parts of the district.

**Birds**—A variety of birds is found in the district. The most common among the game birds is the partridge (*Francolines pondicerionus*) which occurs everywhere and is locally known as *titar*. Other types of partridge, such as *kala titar* (or black *titar*) are rare. Among the quails the most common are the *bater* (*Coturnix communis*) and the *lava* (*Perdica asiatica*)



Suraha Tal, Ballia



which are usually found in bushes. Other birds found in the district are kabutar or pigeon (*Columbia livia*), fakhta or dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), parkia or turtle dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*), harial (*Streptopelia senegalensis*), peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), snipe or chaha (*Capella gallinago*), lal sir (*Netta rufina*), white-eyed pochard or khanjan (*Aythya rufa*), nil sir (*Anas platy rhyncchos*), seekhpar (*Anas acuta*) and jal murgi (*Amaurornis phoeniceus*).

**Reptiles**— Different varieties of snakes and other reptiles are found everywhere in the district especially in the rural areas. Some snakes are deadly, such as the cobra (*Naja naja*), karait (*Bungarus coeruleus*), rat snake (*styas mucosus*) but the majority is nonpoisonous. The other reptiles found in the district are the crocodile (*Crocodilus palustris*), monitor lizard (*Varanus monitor*) and python (*Python molurus*).

**Fish**— Fish are found in the rivers, lakes and ponds of the district, the species commonly found being rohu (*Labeo rohita*), karounch (*Labeo calbasu*), bata (*Labeo bata*), khursa (*Labeo gonius*), bhakur (*Catla catla*), nain (*Cirrihina mirgala*), raiya (*Cirrihina rebe*), darhi (*Barbus sarana*), putia (*Barbus stigma*), parham (*Wallagonia attu*), tengra (*Mystus aor*), tingan (*Mystus vitatus*), chengna (*Ophicephalus straitus*), girai (*Ophicephalus gachuwa*), batra (*Notopeternus notopeternus*), mni (*Notopeternus chitla*), mangur (*Clarius mangur*), singhi (*Heteropneustes fossilis*), chelwa (*Chela bacaila*), belgagra (*Rita rita*) and conch (*Bagarius bagarius*).

### Game Laws

The game laws applicable to the district were governed by the Wild Birds and Animals Protection (U.P. Amendment) Act, 1934, replaced by the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, which has made game laws more stringent in order to conserve wild life and prevent the extinction of certain species. The wolf (*Canis lupus*), crocodile, gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) and peafowl have been declared protected species and certain restrictions have been placed on the shooting of wild pig, nilgai and certain other species. The punishment for infringement of the laws has been made more deterrent.

### CLIMATE

The climate of the district is moist and relaxing except in the summer and cold seasons. The year may be divided into four seasons : the cold, which lasts from about the latter half of November to February : the hot, from March to about the middle of June : the south-west monsoon season, which constitutes the period from about the middle of June to the end of September : and the post-monsoon or transitional season which covers October and the first half of November.

## Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for four stations for fairly long periods. The details of the rainfall at these stations for the district as a whole are given in Statement I which appears at the end of the chapter. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1,013.1 mm. (39.89"). About 88 per cent of the annual rainfall is received during the south-west monsoon months (June to September), August being the rainiest month. Except for the area around Sikandarpur, which gets less rainfall, the variation in the rainfall from place to place in the district is not much nor is the variation from year to year large. In the fifty-year period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall, amounting to 154 per cent of the normal, occurred in 1911, 1932 being the year with the lowest annual rainfall which was 66 per cent of the normal. In this fifty-year period the annual rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in four years, two of them being consecutive. Considering the rainfall at individual stations, two consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred twice at two of the four stations. The annual rainfall in the district was between 800 and 1,300 mm. (31.50" and 51.18") in 43 years out of the 50 mentioned above. A statement regarding the frequency of the annual rainfall in the district is given below for the period 1901-50 :

Range in mm.	No. of years
601—700	2
701—800	2
801—900	7
901—1000	10
1001—1100	9
1101—1200	10
1201—1300	7
1301—1400	1
1401—1500	1
1501—1600	1

On an average there are 50 rainy days (days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year in the district. The number of rainy days is lowest in and around Sikandarpur but does not vary much in the rest of the district.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 320.0 mm. (12.60") at Rasra on October 3, 1884.

### Temperature and Humidity

Ballia is the only place in the district where there is an observatory and meteorological records are available for only a short period for this station. The description which follows is based on these records supplemented by the records of observatories in the neighbouring districts which have a similar climate. After February there is a steady increase in temperatures. May is generally the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 41.8°C. (107.2° F.) and the mean daily minimum at 25.4° C. (77.7° F.). On individual days the maximum temperature may reach over 47° C. (116.6° F.). With the onset of the monsoon in the district by about the middle of June, there is an appreciable drop in day temperatures but nights continue to be as warm as during the latter part of the summer. After the withdrawal of the monsoon early in October, temperatures begin to decrease, the drop being more rapid after October. January is usually the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature dropping to 23.9° C. (75.0° F.) and the mean daily minimum to about 9.9° C. (49.8° F.). During the cold season, in association with passing western disturbances, cold waves affect the district and on such occasions the minimum temperature drops to about 2° C. (35.6° F.).

The maximum temperature recorded at Ballia was 47.5° C. (117.5° F.) on June 9, 1966. The minimum was 1.6° C. (34.9° F.) on January 27, 1964.

The relative humidity is generally high during the south-west monsoon season, being 70 per cent. The relative humidity then starts decreasing. The driest part of the year is the summer season when the relative humidity in the afternoon is less than 30 per cent. Some details of temperature and humidity are given in Statement II (at the end of the chapter).

### Cloudiness

During the monsoon months and for brief spells of a day or two in association with passing western disturbances, skies are generally heavily clouded or overcast. Cloudiness decreases during the post-monsoon months. During the rest of the year skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

## **Winds**

Winds are generally light with some increase in force during the latter part of the summer and early part of the monsoon season. During the non-monsoon months, winds are mostly from directions between south-west and north-west. By May winds from directions between north-east and south-east begin to blow and these predominate in the south-west monsoon season. On some days during the monsoon season winds blow from the west or south-west. The average annual wind speed is about 4.0 km. per hour, the maximum being 7.2 km. per hour in May and the minimum 1.6 km. per hour in November.

## **Special Weather Phenomena**

Some of the monsoon depressions from the Bay of Bengal move in a westerly to north-westerly direction and affect the weather of the district causing widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. Duststorms and thunderstorms occur during the summer season. Rain in the monsoon season is often associated with thunder. Fog occurs at times during the early part of the cold season.



(a) Normal rainfall in MM. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more)\* Based on all available data up to 1968.

## STATEMENT II

## Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

Reference Page No. 10

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature (Centigrade)	Mean daily minimum temperature (Centigrade)	Highest maximum ever recorded (Centigrade) Date	Lowest minimum ever recorded (Centigrade) Date	Relative humidity	
					08.30 %	17.30* %
January	23.9	9.9	28.8 1961, January 2	1.6 1964, January 27	81	56
February	26.6	11.1	35.9 1974, February 25	2.6 1964, February 2	67	41
March	32.9	16.8	40.9 1973, March 30	8.9 1957, March 1	54	30
April	39.0	21.9	44.5 1961, April 24	11.7 1965, April 3	41	24
May	41.8	25.4	46.4 1969, May 26	16.1 1964, May 13	46	26
June	39.7	26.8	47.5 1966, June 9	19.1 1965, June 22	68	47
July	34.3	25.9	43.0 1962, July 31	17.0 1968, July 31	84	72
August	32.6	25.5	39.4 1972, August 3	18.6 1964, August 1	88	79
September	33.2	25.1	37.9 1974, September 9	17.0 1966, September 30	84	75
October	32.3	20.9	36.9 1974, October 16 & 17	10.4 1957, October 31	77	68
November	28.8	13.3	34.5 1961, November 13	5.8 1957, November 29	71	54
December	24.8	10.2	29.9 1958, December 19	2.5 1964, December 15	76	58
Annual	32.5	19.4	*Hours according to Indian Standard Time.			
					70	53

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY

#### ANCIENT PERIOD

In ancient times the region covered by the present district of Ballia, lay in the kingdom of Kosala. It is probable that the river Ganga, in its sweep towards the north-east of present town of Ballia, formed the boundary of Kosala which included the whole of the present Ballia district as far as the junction of the Sadanira and the Great Gandaki<sup>1</sup>.

The brick-strewn mounds and fragmentary remains of structural character, which evoke memories not only of mythology but also of history, are found at a number of places in the district. The ruins in the neighbourhood of Barhmain and Hanumanganj, consisting of a large mound called Mira Dih, covered with broken bricks and pottery of a dark hue, are probably the remains of an ancient city<sup>2</sup>. Khaira Dih, near Turtipar in tahsil Rasra, which is also a ruined site of a very ancient city named Bhargavapur, is presumed to have been the place where the rishi Jamadagni lived<sup>3</sup>.

The excavations carried out under the auspices of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, have brought to light relics of the black and red ware civilization (1450-1200 B.C.) at various sites such as Bhumapardi, Bijulipur, Godabirgarh, Lovika-katopa, Maira Dih, Pakka Kot and Vainagadh<sup>4</sup>, indicating that the tract enjoyed settled life and civilization from this early time.

Popular legends also bear witness to the antiquity of these sites; one such being that of the village of Karon, (in tahsil Ballia), its name being considered to be a corruption of the word Kam-anaunya. The legend is that Siva, being enraged at the attempts of Kamdeo (the god of love) to beguile him from his meditations, burnt him to ashes at this spot<sup>5</sup>. Ballia itself is

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1. Pathak, V. N. : History of Kosala up to The Rise of the Mauryas, p. 43
  2. Fuhrer, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, p. 192
  3. *Ibid.*, p. 194; Cunningham, A. and Garrick, H. B. W. : *Archaeological Survey of India, Report of Tours in North and South Bihar in 1880-81*, Vol. XVI, p. 131; Carleyle, A. C. L. : *Archaeological Survey of India, Report of Tours in Gorakhpur, Saran and Ghazipur, in 1877-78-79 and 80*, Vol. XXII, p. 197
  4. Ghosh, A. (Ed.) : *Indian Archaeology*. 1963-64, (New Delhi, 1967), p. 13
  5. Nevill H. R. *Ballia : A Gazetteer*. p. 208

supposed to have derived its name by the corruption of the name Valmiki, that of the great sage who is said to have had his hermitage or to have dwelt here for some time<sup>1</sup>. It is also associated with Bhṛigu, another renowned sage who, according to a local legend, came and dwelt here because of the sacredness of the place. Other rishis like Garga, Parasara, Vāśiṣṭha and Atri are traditionally believed to have visited the neighbourhood of Ballia attesting to the sacredness of its environs extending to a circuit of about 16 km. According to tradition, Hansnagar (town of swans) a village 9.6 km. east of Ballia, is said to take its name from the legend that a swan turned into a man and a crow into a swan by drinking the water of the holy river Ganga at this place<sup>2</sup>. At a distance of about 137 km. from Ballia there is an ancient tank named Dharmaranya Pokhara where an excavation is said to have revealed that thousands of rishis practised austerities there and that to the north and east there were traces of the previous existence of an ancient forest, probably a remnant of the ancient Aranya<sup>3</sup>. Some other places of this district are also associated with the Vedic sages: Bhalsand (in tahsil Ballia) is said to have derived its name from Bhardwaja who resided there for sometime<sup>4</sup> and Dhuband (also in tahsil Ballia) to be a corruption of Durvasa-ashrama, signifying the abode of Durvasa, a celebrated rishi<sup>5</sup>.

The early political history of this region is complex. According to the Puranic tradition, the solar dynasty of Kshatriyas, founded by one Manu, was the earliest known dynasty which gave Kosala (to which the tract forming the district became subject) a systematic form of government<sup>6</sup> and of which Ikshvaku, the eldest son of Manu, famed in Vedic tradition, was the first ruler<sup>7</sup>. The line that descended from him produced a number of illustrious kings till the accession of Rama who was the greatest ruler of this dynasty<sup>8</sup>. Lakhnesar Dih, in tahsil Rasra, is named after Lakshmana, the brother of Ram, who is said to have visited this place and built a temple at this spot in honour of Mahadev. The remains of an ancient town are still to be seen on the high bank of the river in the form of immense piles of ruins, from which numerous pieces of sculpture have been obtained from time to time which bear testimony to the fact that even in those early times it was a settled abode with a flourishing population<sup>9</sup>. Lakshmana's son, Chandraketu, entitled Malla (valiant) in the *Ramayana*, established a kingdom known as the Malla state<sup>10</sup>.

1 Further, *op. cit.*, p. 190

2 Fisher, F. H. : *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces of India*, Vol. XIII, Part III, Ballia, pp. 88—89

3 Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 191; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 167 Bajpai, K. D. : *The Geographical Encyclopædia of Ancient and Medieval India*, Part I, p. 112

4 Fisher, *op. cit.*, p. 97

5 *Ibid.*, p. 103

6 Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.) : *History and Culture of the Indian People, The Vedic Age*, Vol. I, p. 275

7 Raychaudhuri, H. C. : *Political History of Ancient India*, p. 160

8 Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 295

9 Fisher, *op. cit.*, p. 117; Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 225

10 Pathak, *op. cit.*, p. 276





Shaheed Park, Ballia



**Ruins of Rishi Jamdagni's Ashram, Khaira**

of which some portion of this district formed a part<sup>1</sup> It is probable that the territories of the Mallas touched those of Kasi in the south, Magadha in the south-east and Kosala in the south-west, of which an area of the present day Ballia district<sup>2</sup> then formed a part. It came to be the biggest and the most important of the autonomous states of Kosala in respect of territorial extent and political influence.<sup>3</sup>

In the sixth century B.C., Kosala came to be known as one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas (great kingdoms)<sup>4</sup>. At the time it was ruled by the powerful king, Mahakosala<sup>5</sup> His son, Prasenjit, the last great monarch of the solar dynasty of Kosala, was an important figure of his time. During his reign the kingdom attained great glory and prosperity.<sup>6</sup> The Malla kingdom also figured as one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas with an independent entity and status equal to that of Kosla itself.<sup>7</sup> its chief, Bandhula, was a close ally of Prasenjit as well as of Mahali, the Linchchhavi prince of Vaisali.<sup>8</sup> The Mallas were deeply influenced by the teachings of two great religious exponents—Mahavira and Buddha and Jainism and Buddhism found many followers among the Mallas.<sup>9</sup> The period gave rise to a different culture—that of the northern black polished ware, as has been revealed by the excavations conducted at Ajaneraghar, Bhimapurdi, Bijulipur, Godabirghar and Masumpur<sup>10</sup>.

After Prasenjit, the kingdom of Kosala began to decline rapidly<sup>11</sup> and the history of this area is shrouded in obscurity. The existence of numerous ruined forts and other remains in the district connected with the Bhars and the Cherus in legend and folklore point to the fact that they might have held domination over the major part of the district at that time. The Bhars were the occupants of the western part of the district. According to local legend, the heaps of broken earthen bricks in the parganas of Lakhnesar, Bhadaon and Sikandrapur, belong to the time of the Bhars. The Cherus probably ruled over the eastern half of the district.<sup>12</sup> Kopachit in tahsil Rasra is believed to have been the western limit of the Cheru domonion.<sup>13</sup> Tradition

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1 Ibid., p. 43

2 Ibid., p. 285

3 Ibid., p. 286

4 Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. : *The History and Culture of the Indian People, The Age of Imperial Unity* Vol. II, p. I

5 Pathak, op. cit., p. 206

6 Ibid., p. 216; Majumdar and Pusalker, op. cit., Vol. II, pp. 4—5

7 Pathak, op. cit., p. 258

8 Ibid., p. 217

9 Dutt, N. and Bajpai, K. D. : *Development of Buddhism in Uttar Pradesh*, p. 347

10 Ghosh, A. (Ed.) : *Indian Archaeology, 1963-64*, (New Delhi, 1967), p. 43

11 Pathak, op. cit., p. 235

12 Fisher, op. cit., p. 72

13 Ibid., p. 114

states that Bansdih lay in the heart of the Cheru country. Though no remains attributable to the group are found in Bansdih itself, the remnants of a fort are pointed out in the neighbouring and the now almost deserted village of Deorhi<sup>1</sup>. A number of places in the Ballia tahsil are also associated with this group : Karnai is believed to have been originally owned by the Cherus<sup>2</sup>. Garwr is alleged to have been founded by them and a small mound near the village<sup>3</sup> and a large brick mound at Zirabasti are presumed to be the debris of Cheru strongholds.<sup>4</sup> Extensive ruins at Pakka Kot are also said to be the debris of a fort and other buildings dating back to the time when the Cherus ruled the district. Tradition has it that the large inland lake, the Suhara Tal at Basantpur, was constructed by the Cherus but no traces are found of any artificial construction. The significance of the tradition implies how completely the power of the Cherus has been impressed upon the imagination of the people.<sup>5</sup>

About the middle of the 4th century B. C. the realm of Kosala was brought to an end by Mahapadam Nanda, who has been described in the *Puranas* as the exterminator of the Kshatriya race and who, by uprooting the Kosalans, extended his empire over the major part of this region. He was the first great historical emperor of northern India.<sup>6</sup> But a part of the district under the Mallas did not come under the domination of this emperor as they saved their authority and existence by merely accepting the supremacy of the Nandas.<sup>7</sup>

The Nandas were supplanted by the Mauryas under Chandragupta (324-300 B. C.) who ruled over a vast empire and the district became a part of the Maurya dominion except for the portion under the Mallas which remained independent. Kautilya, who took a leading part in this revolution<sup>8</sup>, mentions in his *Arthashastra* that this republic was a Sangha or a state in a federation. He enjoins upon Chandragupta Maurya to cultivate friendship with the Mallas : "It is better to have a Sangha on your side than to acquire an army or to secure an ally<sup>9</sup>." The most illustrious king of this dynasty was Asoka (273-236 B. C.), Chandragupta's grandson who became a Buddhist and combined in himself the zeal of a monk with the wisdom of a king<sup>10</sup>. The excavations have laid bare the remains of a *stupa* at Ballia and the ruins of Buddhist monasteries here and at Barhman. The latter has remains of old walls and very large bricks measuring about 45 cm. long,

2. Fuhrer, *op. cit.*, p. 191, Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 179

3. *Ibid.*, p. 207

4. Fuhrer, A. *op. cit.*, p. 192, Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 202

5. Fuhrer, A. *op. cit.*, p. 195

6. *Ibid.*, p. 94

Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 32-33, Raychaudhuri, *op. cit.* p. 233-34

7. Pandey, R. B. : *Gorakhpur Janapada Ka Itihasa Aur Uski Ksetriya Jatinan* p. 116

8. Majumdar, R. C. : *Ancient India*, p. 104

9. Kanale, R. P. *The Kautilya Arthashastra* Part III, p. 126

10. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 71, 75, Bhandarkar, D. R. : *Asoka*, p. 79

23cm. broad and 11 cm. in height and many carved and ornamental specimens<sup>1</sup>.

With the fall of the Mauryas a new dynasty, that of the Sungas, came to power under Pushyamitra (187-151 B. C.) whose dominion covered only the central portion of the Maurya empire. The fact is confirmed by an inscription found at Ayodhya describing him as the lord of Kosala.<sup>2</sup> As he uprooted the Malla republic<sup>3</sup>, the whole of the area covered by the district came under his sway<sup>4</sup>. During his reign, the Greeks of Bactria invaded India and it is likely the district also suffered the effects of the invasion of Menander, who carried his arms as far as Madhyamika, Saketa and Patliputra<sup>5</sup>.

The history of the district in the era immediately following the fall of the Sungas is shrouded in obscurity till the advent of the Kushanas. That Ballia became a part of the Kushana dominion is undoubted as evinced by the finding of a large number of coins mostly of this period in the ruins of Khairi Dih. The large bricks (measuring 60 cm. by 45 cm. by 13 cm.) found in the ruins are a witness to the antiquity and the prosperity of the place<sup>6</sup>.

After the dismemberment of the Kushana empire, the history of Ballia is mostly enveloped in darkness. But a glimpse of the history of the district is provided by a number of inscribed coins, found at the site of the ancient city of Ayodhya, of certain rulers such as Satyamitra, Ayumitra (or Aryamitra) Sanghamitra, Vijayamitra, Devamitra, Ajavarman and Kumudasena, who appear to have flourished after the end of Kushana rule, in what is now eastern Uttar Pradesh, including the area then covered by district Ballia. Of these Kumudasena alone was called a raja. It is surmised that the Gupta probably Samudragupta conquered this region and annexed it to the empire<sup>7</sup>, in the fourth century A.D.<sup>8</sup> During the reign of his son, Chandragupta II (380-413), the celebrated Chinese (Buddhist) pilgrim, Fa-hien (400-411) came to India to pay homage to the holy places of Buddhism. He mentions that on his way from Kasi to Patliputra, he came across a Buddhist monastery and a Buddhist temple (in Ballia) which bore the name of 'the vast solitude.' The Indian name is not given but the literal translation of the term used is Vrihadaranya or Bidaran<sup>9</sup>.

1. Fuhrer, *op. cit.*, pp. 191-92, Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 166

2. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Ancient India*, p. 186

3. Pandey, *op. cit.*, pp. 126-27

4. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 95-96

5. Rapson, E. J. (Ed.), *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. I, *Ancient India* p. 468

6.—Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 194, Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 139

7. Majumdar and Pusalker, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 174, Puri B.N. *India in the Time of Patanjali* p. 50

8. Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.) : *History and Culture of the Indian People, The Classical Age* Vol. III, pp. 8, 13

9. Cunningham, A. : *The Ancient Geography of India*, pp. 370-71, Nevill, *op. cit.*, p. 139

The decline of the Gupta empire was precipitated by the assumption of independence by its feudatories<sup>1</sup>. About the beginning of the second quarter of the sixth century, Vashodharmar of Malwa overran the whole of northern India and Ballia seems to have come under his meteoric sovereignty<sup>2</sup> after which it passed under the rule of the Maukharis of Kannauj. They established an empire comprising the whole of modern Uttar Pradesh in addition to a large part of Magadha<sup>3</sup>. Thus the glory of Magadha was eclipsed with the rising power of Kannauj. The Maukharis were subdued by Harsha Vardhana (606-647) who established an extensive empire, the district continuing to form part of the Vardhana empire<sup>4</sup>. During his reign Hiuen Tsang (629-644) another famous Chinese pilgrim and a Buddhist monk, came from China and passed through this district on his way from Varanasi to Nepal. He describes the Buddhist monastery of Aviddhakarna which he calls A-pi-te-ka-la-la Sangharama (the monastery of brethren with unpierced ears) situated close to the town of Ballia. According to him this monastery had been built for the use of Buddhist pilgrims. From there he went to the temple of Narayana which he describes as being of two storeys with halls and terraces beautifully adorned with the most marvellous sculptures in stone with stone images in the highest style of art.<sup>5</sup> Carlisle identifies the ruins of an ancient temple at Narainpur (in tahsil Ballia) with the remains of the temple mentioned above<sup>6</sup>.

After the death of Harsha his empire broke up and anarchy and confusion prevailed for about half a century<sup>7</sup>. The history of Ballia during the interval between Harsha's death and the rise of Yashovarman nearly three-quarters of a century later, is again obscure<sup>8</sup>. He must have reigned in the latter part of the seventh and the first part of the eighth century A. D.<sup>9</sup> and the district of Ballia is likely to have formed an integral part of his dominion.

After Yashovarman the kingdom of Kannauj (which included modern Uttar Pradesh) was a dependency of the empire of Dharmapala of Bengal, who nominated Chakrayudha as the ruler of Kannauj but who was to be directly subordinate to him.<sup>10</sup> In the first half of the ninth century probably soon after the capture of Kannauj by Nagbhatta II, it came under the sway of the rising power of the Gurjara Pratiharas<sup>11</sup> of whom Bhoja was the strongest ruler in northern India. He maintained peace in his

1. Majumdar and Pusalker op. cit., Vol. III, P. 39
2. Tripathi, op. cit., p. 282
3. Majumdar, op. cit., p. 245
4. Tripathi, op. cit., pp. 298-99
5. Watters, T. : *On Yuan Chwang's Travels in India*, Vol. II, p. 62.
6. Nevill, op. cit., p. 139
7. Mookerji R. K. : *Ancient India*, p. 268
8. Tripathi R. S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 192
9. *Ibid.*, pp. 194-95
10. Majumdar R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. : *The History and Culture of the Indian People The Age of Imperial Kanauj*, Vol. p. IV, p. 47
11. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 219, Puri, B. N. : *The History of the Gurjara Pratiharas*, p. 45

kingdom and defended it against external dangers<sup>1</sup> but the power of the Gurjara Pratiharas began to decline in the latter half of the tenth century and was brought to an end by Mahmud of Ghani's invasion in 1018 A. D.<sup>2</sup>

The downfall of the Gurjara Pratiharas was followed by a period of chaos which came to an end only in the last decade of the 11th century by the establishment of the Gahadvala dynasty at Kannauj under Chandradeva<sup>3</sup>. The only reference of his suzerainty is that he was the protector of the holy places of Kasi (Varanasi), Kusika (Kannauj), Uttarakesala (Ayodhya) and the city of Indra (ancient Delhi). It will thus be seen that Chandradeva's jurisdiction comprised almost the whole of what is now Uttar Pradesh<sup>4</sup>. Therefore it may be presumed that the district of Ballia was also under his control. Reference to a Rajpur raja of Haldi Ramdeo, who was installed in the 11th and 12th centuries A. D., show that some parts of the district were subjugated by local chiefs<sup>5</sup>.

#### MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

The second battle of Tarain in 1192 A. D. does not appear to have brought the region comprising the present district of Ballia under the immediate sovereignty of the Muslims. With the defeat and death of Jaichandra in the battle of Chandawar in 1193<sup>6</sup>, at the hands of Shihab-ud-din Ghuri, almost all of northern India lay at his feet but the effect of his conquest in the early years of his reign over this region appears to have been insignificant. This is evidenced by the comparative absence of Muslim remains in the district and also by the manner in which the Rajputs were left in apparently undisturbed possession. The Muslim forces seldom appeared beyond the Saryu river and the tract on the east of that river remained practically in the hands of the Rajputs, the earliest being the Sengars, Dikhits, Kinwars, Nikumbhas, Naranis, Barwars, Karcholias and Lohatamias, all are of the same period. Later they were driven eastwards apparently owing to the Muslim pressure on the west. That the tract remained unconquered may be ascribed to its geographical position and remoteness<sup>7</sup>.

Muslim names of places are rare in this district and references to it in the histories of Muslim historians less common.

1. *Ibid.*, pp. 51-52
2. Majumdar, R. C., Raychaudhuri, H. C. and Dutta, K. K. : *An Advanced History of India*, p. 183
3. Niyogi, R. : *The History of the Gahadavala Dynasty*, p. 4. Majumdar, R. C. and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed) *History and Culture of the Indian People, The Struggle For Empire*, vol. p. 51
4. Tripathi, R. S. : *History of Kanauj to the Moslem Conquest*, p. 302
5. Fuhrer, A., *op. cit.*, p. 192
6. Majumdar, and Pusalker, A. D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. V, II<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Bombay, 1966), p. 119
7. Nevill, H. R. : *Ballia A Gazetteer*, Vol. XXX; Allahabad; 1907; p. 141

This was probably the result of the absence of Muslim proprietors at that time, those that remained being in most cases the dependents of local *qazis* and *kanungos* whose offices were hereditary during Muslim rule and who resided in the towns.

According to tradition, pargana Sikandarpur was colonised by Muslims. It is believed that Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Muhammad Gauri general, passed through this district in 1194 after the capture of Varanasi on his way to Bihar and that he erected a fort on the place now known as Qutbganj on the banks of the Ghaghra<sup>1</sup>.

The village of Kathaura or Kathanda, in pargana Sikandarpur east of the Barasdih tahsil, was divided into two parts one being called Kathaura and the other Qutbganj. A mound is still visible there of which it is believed that it constitutes the ruins of a fort built in the time of Qutb-ud-din Shah<sup>2</sup>. The name of this sultan is preserved in that of the hamlet of Qutbganj which stands on the banks of the Ghaghra a short distance north of the main site.

Meanwhile Ikhtiyar-ud-din Muhammad, son of Bakhtyar of the Turkish tribe of Khali, had received some fiefs between the Ganga and the son, then took Tirhut and invaded Bihar capturing its capital. In his march he must have penetrated the district of Ballia and it is certain that it was included in the territory of Bengal and Bihar in 1202, and that the town of Kathaura (on the banks of the Ghaghra) had been in communication with the Muslim principalities of Bengal. Thus the district of Ballia passed under the sway of the Muslim.

The tract occupied by the present district of Ballia finds no mention in the history of mediaeval India written by Muslim historians probably because the surrounding areas of Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Saran (in Bihar) remained in the possession of Hindu proprietors till the beginning of the reign of Muhammad Tughlak (1325). At certain periods the district was actually subjected to the Muslim rulers of Bengal. In 1377, when Firoz Shah returned from eastern Bengal, he placed Jaunpur under Malik Bahroz Sultan and Bihar under Malik Bir Afghan, who reduced the Hindus to complete subjection. The district of Ballia was also placed in the charge of these two persons till the death of Firoz Shah after which they increased their own power at the expense of the central authority till 1394, when Khwaja-i-Jahan, the vizier of the kingdom, was deputed to the charge of Jaunpur with full control over the territory extending from Kannauj to Bihar, including the district of Ballia<sup>3</sup>. He made Jaunpur an independent

1. *Ibid*.

2. Fisher, F. H. (Ed.) : *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North Western Provinces of India*, Vol. XIII, Part III-Ballia (Allahabad, 1864), p. 109

3. Elliot H. M. and Dowson, J. : *The History of India as Told by its Own Historians*, Vol. IV 1st Indian Edition (Allahabad, 1964), p. 29



Muslim kingdom and it remained as such from 1394 to 1479 during which time at least a part of the tract included in the present district of Ballia came within its sway which, according to an inscription on a black marble slab fixed in the wall of a tomb at Kharid, extended eastwards as far as Bihar.<sup>1</sup>

The tract covering the present district of Ballia appears to have remained under the undisputed control of the Jaunpur kingdom till 1479 when Bahlul Lodi defeated Sultan Husain, its last ruler, and obliged him to flee to Bihar.<sup>2</sup>

According to a legend, Kharid (a small village in pargana Sikandarpur) was given its name by the king of Bengal (Abu Muza'ar Sultan Husain). It was he who ruled over Bengal in 1495. An inscription on a stone slab found near Kharid mentions the king's name and the name of Khan-i-Azam Khan, his mukhtar from which it seems that Kharid was under the Muslim ruler of Bengal.

Sikandarpur, in the pargana of the same name in tahsil Bansdih, was founded by Sikandar Lodi and named after him, towards the end of the 15th century<sup>3</sup> though it is also said that it was founded by one of his officers. He is also said to have erected a fortress at this place. From the time of Qutb-ud-din Aibak (or about the beginning of the 13th century) Muslim immigrants began to arrive in the district, probably from the Muslim principalities of lower Bengal and gradually established their ascendancy throughout the northern part of pargana Sikandarpur having ousted the Hindu proprietors of the place.

After the defeat of Husain Shah, Bahlul pursued him as far as the confines of Bihar. When Bahlul reached the town of Haldi (in this district) he heard the news of the death of Qutb Khan Lodi, his cousin. After observing the days of customary mourning, he returned to Jaunpur which he left in the possession of Barbak.<sup>4</sup>

After Bahlul's death, Barbak became an independent king and a potential danger to his brother Sikandar Lodi, who succeeded Bahlul in 1398 as the sultan of Delhi. In 1493 the district of Ballia was affected by an extensive Hindu rebellion in the wake of which Barbak was driven out of Jaunpur<sup>5</sup> but was reinstated when Sikandar Lodi returned. Sikandarpur was garrisoned but whatever importance it attained during the days of the Lodi's appears to have waned under the Mughals, when no imperial garrisons were maintained or deemed to be necessary in these parts.

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1. Fisher, F. H. (Ed.), *op. cit.*, Vol. XIII, Part III-Ballia (Allahabad, 1884), p. 76.
  2. Lal K. S.: *Twilight of the Sultanate*, (Bombay, 1963), p. 151.
  3. Fisher, F. H. (Ed.) *op. cit.*, Vol. XIII part III-Ballia (Allahabad 1884), 136, Nevill, H. R. : *op. cit.*, Vol. XXX (Allahabad, 1907), pp. 143, 252.
  4. Elliot, H. M. and Dowson, J., *op. cit.*, Vol. V, 1st Indian edition (Allahabad 1864), p. 90.
  5. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, Vol. XXX (Allahabad, 1907) p. 147.

When Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi at Paniput in 1526 and became the ruler of Delhi the Afghan nobles of the east strengthened their power within a short time. From an inscription on a black marble slab found near the Ghaghra and later fixed in the wall of the tomb of Rukn-ud-din at Kharid, it appears that a mosque was built at Kharid in 1527 during the days of Nusrat Shah, an independent king of Bengal.<sup>1</sup> This inscription, which is in Tughra characters confirms that Nusrat Shah had extended his authority over the whole or northern Bihar and as Kharid lies on the right bank of the Ghaghra, Nusrat Shah must have held sway temporarily in Azamgarh in which part of the present district of Ballia lay. The name of the sovereign of Bengal would not have occurred had Muhammad Shah exercised real authority over this region and at this time Kharid seems to have been in the possession of the sultan of Bengal. According to tradition, the town of Kharid was then known as Ghaznifarabad, a magnificent city extending for a considerable distance between Sikandarpur and Turtipar.

In 1528 Babur marched eastwards knowing that Nusrat Shah had encroached on Bihar. The Afghans under Mahmud (Sikandar Lodi's son) reached the north bank of the Ghaghra while Babur reached Ghazipur by the Ganga and then went on to Chaunsa, touching the border of the district as well. He sent his artillery into Doaba to contain the enemy by bombardment and despatched Mirza Askeri through Ballia with instructions to cross the Ghaghra at Haldi and to threaten the Afghans on their right flank, he himself crossing over just below the confluence.<sup>2</sup> Nusrat Shah who had joined Mahmud, separated from his forces and withdrew the army of Kharid as it was called. Babur attacked and defeated the Afghans, driving them across the Ghaghra in the direction of Lucknow and keeping to the north bank of the Ghaghra, he went on pursuing them. After Babur's death the Afghans set up Jalal-ud-din Lahanni, Mahmud's son, as their sovereign and all the defeated Afghans allied themselves with him, chief among them being Farid Khan Suri, better known as Sher Khan and afterwards as Sher Shah.<sup>3</sup> The district continued to remain under the control of Delhi during the reigns of Sher Shah and of his successor Islam Shah.<sup>4</sup> When Akbar came to the throne (in 1556) the east in which was included the district of Ballia, was conquered in 1559.<sup>5</sup>

About 1565 Ballia was affected by the rebellion of Khan Zaman against Akbar. The records of Akbar's reign in the *Ain-i-Akbari* furnish a certain amount of information regarding the condition of Ballia in respect of cultivation, the revenue and the principal landholders of each pargana. The district lay partly in the sarkar of

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1. Fisher, F. H. (Ed.) : *op. cit.*, Vol. XIII, Part III-Ballia (Allahabad 1884), p. 76. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, Vol. XXX (Allahabad 1907), p. 144-145.
  2. Elliot, H. M. and Dowson, J., *Op. cit.* Vol. IV, p. 283, Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, Vol. XXX (Allahabad 1907), pp. 144-145.
  3. Trinethi, R. P. : *The Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire* p. 50
  4. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, Vol. XXX (Allahabad 1907) p. 146
  5. Elliot, H. M. and Dowson, J., *op. cit.*, Vol. V, (Allahabad, 1964), pp. 259-260.

Ghazipur and the remainder, with the exception of Doaba, in the sirkar of Jaunpur. Both these sirkars were included in the subah of Allahabad. Doaba was not a separate pargana but formed a portion of sirkar Rohas in the Subah of Bihar.<sup>1</sup> It is not possible to determine the revenue then paid in Doaba. The district paid a revenue of Rs 1,55,000 on a cultivated area of 80,200 acres. The revenue demand was extremely high. At a conservative estimate, the purchasing power of the rupee in Akbar's days was probably at least eight times as great as what obtained at the beginning of the 20th century.<sup>2</sup>

The names of the parganas (with the exception of Doaba) have remained unchanged. There were three *Mahals* (revenue paying units) of the present district of Ballia in the sirkar of Jaunpur, namely Kharid, Sikandarpur and Bhadaon. Kharid, a prosperous pargana, was then held by Kausik Rajputs. It had a cultivated area of 30,914 bighas and paid a revenue of 14,45,743 dams (absolute Indian copper coin, one fortieth of a rupee) and contributed a contingent of 50 horsemen and 5,000 foot.

Sikandarpur, a pargana which lay in the sirkar of Jaunpur, was somewhat larger than at present, as four *rappas* (tracts of land) were afterwards transferred to Azamgarh, though the loss was compensated for to some extent by the addition of *tappa* Dhaka from Zahurabad and Shah Salempur from Kopachit. The leading zamindars were Brahmans as the Rais had not yet asserted their supremacy, the date of their advent being 1628. The military contingent was 10 mounted men and 3,000 infantry and the revenue 17,06,417 dams on about 32,514 bighas of cultivation.

The *mahal* of Bhadaon had 43,000 bighas under cultivation, the revenue being 2,29,315 dams and the zamindars Siddiqi Sheikhs, who provided 10 horse and 100 foot.<sup>3</sup>

There were four *mahals* in the Ghazipur sirkar, namely Ballia, Kopachit, Lakhnesar and Garha. In all these parganas, except Garha, the zamindars were Rajputs. Garha was the property of Brahmanas or of Rajputs. Ballia had about 28,344 bighas under tillage paid a revenue of 12,500,000 dams and contributed 200 cavalry and 2,000 foot. In Kopachit there were about 19,266 bighas under cultivation and the revenue was 9,42,190 dams the local contingent being 20 horse and 2,000 foot. The *Ain-i-Akbari* gives the details about pargana Lakhnesar which had approximately 2,883 bighas under cultivation, the revenue being 1,26,636 dams. Garha, which furnished 200 foot, had 10,049 bighas under cultivation and paid a revenue of 5,00,000 dams.<sup>4</sup>

1. Fisher, F. H., *op. cit.*, Vol. XIII, Part III-Ballia (Allahabad, 1884), pp. 4, 7, 6.

2. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 147.

3. Abul Fazl-i-Allami, : *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. II. Eng. trans., by Col H. S. Jarrett (Calcutta, 1949), p. 174.

4. Abul Fazl-i-Allami, *op. cit.*, p. 173.

## MODERN PERIOD

The administrative divisions of Akbar's days remained practically unchanged for 15 years or so after Aurangzeb's death in 1707. Soon after this the grip of the central and provincial governments in this part of the empire gradually loosened leading to the local Rajput zamindars becoming practically independent.<sup>1</sup> Taking advantage of the chaos, Kunwar Dhir Singh, a turbulent Rajput chief of Shahabad (in the State of Bihar) set out with a small force and took possession of a large tract along the banks of the Ghaghra and extended his conquests as far west as Sagri (in Azamgarh). His activities soon attracted the attention of Sarbuland Khan, the governor of Allahabad, who, in 1715, aided by the raja of Azamgarh drove Dhir Singh out almost to Padrauna (in district Deoria) where he was killed.<sup>2</sup>

When Muhammad Shah became emperor in 1719, he gave Murtaza Khan (one of his courtiers) the bulk of the tract covering the present district of Ballia in jagir together with the rest of the sirkars of Jaunpur and Ghazipur as well as those of Varanasi (Banaras) and Chunar<sup>3</sup>. Murtaza Khan entrusted the management of these territories to Rustam Ali Khan (a relative) for a consideration of five lakhs of rupees annually, the latter having the right to retain the surplus for himself. As he could not realize the revenue from most of the zamindars<sup>4</sup> about 1728 Murtaza Khan leased the jagir to Saadat Khan (the nawab of Avadh) for an annual sum of seven lakhs of rupees, who allowed Rustam Ali Khan to continue to manage the estate for eight lakhs of rupees annually.<sup>5</sup> From that time Ballia ceased to be subject directly to the imperial administration and its virtual ruler became the nawab of Avadh. Rustam Ali Khan experienced considerable difficulty in reducing the turbulent Rajputs of the Ballia region to order and in realising revenue from them. He therefore, set up a large entrenched camp on the banks of the Saryu in pargana Kopachit East, close to the village of Dumri from where he marched against the Rajput chieftains of Sukhpura in pargana Kharid, who were killed in a pitched battle in village Garwar (in tahsil Ballia). From their skulls, Rustam Ali Khan constructed a pyramid which it is said, now forms an elevated mound in Garwar<sup>6</sup>. He continued in charge till 1738, when he was replaced by Mansa Ram, one of his deputies.

1. Roberts, D. T., Robinson, A. and Fisher, F. H. : *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North Western Provinces of India*, Vol. XIII, Part III—Ballia, p. 76. *Balwantnamah* by Khair-ud-din Muhammad (English translation by F. Curwen: Allahabad 1875), p. 2.
2. Nevill, H. R. : *Ballia : A Gazetteer being Vol. XXX of the District Gazetteers of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh*, (Allahabad, 1907), p. 149.
3. Srivastava, A. L. : *Avadh Ke Pratham de Nawab* (Hindi translation of the *First Two Nawabs of Avadh* (Agra, 1957), p. 47.
4. *Ibid*.
5. *Ibid.*, Oldham, W. : *Historical and Statistical Member of the Ghazeeput District, Part 1* (Allahabad 1876), pp. 88-89.
6. Oldham, W., op, cit., Vol. I.P., 89 Roberts Robinson and Fisher op. cit. p. 4.

a Gautam Bhuinhar zamindar of Gangapur in Varanasi.<sup>1</sup> Mansa Ram secured for himself but in the name of his son, Balwant Singh, the office of *Naib* of the *sirkars* of Jaunpur, Varanasi and Chunar.<sup>2</sup> Mansa Ram died within a year and was succeeded by his son Balwant Singh who made over the remaining *sirkar* of Ghazipur to Sheikh Abdullah (a zamindar of Ghazipur who earned the favour of Saadat Khan, the nawab of Awadh) on an annual rent of three lakhs of rupees.<sup>3</sup> Sheikh Abdullah died in 1744 leaving four sons, of whom the eldest, Fazl Ali, and the youngest, Karam Ullah, had a tussle over the *sirkar* of Ghazipur and sometimes the former gained charge of it and sometimes the latter. The tussle continued till the death of Karam Ullah in 1748. The *sirkar* of Ghazipur remained under the charge of Fazl Ali until his expulsion in 1757 for oppression and misconduct, and the *sirkar* of Ghazipur was re-annexed to the other three *sirkars* and placed under Balwant Singh's management.<sup>4</sup> From this time Ballia formed part of the territories held by Balwant Singh (who became raja of Varanasi) as a feudatory of Shuja-ud-daula, the nawab vizier of Avadh. Balwant Singh adopted the policy of destroying the power of the local chieftains. His chief victim in this district was Bhuabal Deo of Haldi, who lost the whole of pargana Ballia.<sup>5</sup> The entire Ballia region (with the exception of pargana Doaba) was placed in the charge of *amils*, Mir Sharif Ali obtained Ballia and Kharid; Lakhnesar and Kopachit being given to Balam Das. Sikandarpur to Muzaffar Khan; and Garha and several of the Ghazipur parganas to Jhaiva Ram.<sup>6</sup> On several occasions the local chieftains offered resistance to Balwant Singh but in only one instance were their efforts successful. This exception was provided by the Sengars of pargana Lakhnesar, who not only treated his demands with contempt but adopted an attitude of open hostility.<sup>7</sup> Not content with the refusal to pay revenue they attacked and pillaged his treasuries so that eventually, in 1764, he was compelled to proceed against them in person with a large force.<sup>8</sup> Rasra (in pargana Lakhnesar) was then most inaccessible by reason of the jungle which surrounded it and because the houses of the Sengar chieftains were all built with a view to defence. After two days' conflict in which hundreds of lives were lost, Balwant Singh's troops managed to set Rasra on fire forcing the Sengars to withdraw; but so obstinate was their resistance that Balwant Singh had to enter into a compromise, the Sengars being left in possession of their estates at a low but fixed revenue.<sup>9</sup>

Balwant Singh was the best administrator that the people of the region had known although his administration was constantly hampered by the strained relations existing between him and Shuja-ud-daula. In spite of this unwillingness, Balwant Singh was compelled

1. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, p. 203

2. *Ibid.*, *Proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission* Vol. XIV (1937), p. 85

3. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, pp. 203-204

4. Oldham, W., *op. cit.*, Part I, pp. 91-92

5. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 151

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid.*

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*

to Asin Shuja-ul-daula, the emperor, Shah Alam, and Mir Kasim in the battle of Taxar which was fought in 1764 against the British.

After the defeat of the combined armies, Shah Alam entered into a treaty with the victorious British at Varanasi on December 29, 1764, whereby the province of Varanasi, including Ballia, was transferred to the East India Company.<sup>1</sup>

On August 12, 1765, pargana Doaba (which was then included in the district of Rohars in the subah of Bihar) came into the possession of the British when the East India Company obtained the grant of the district of the provinces of Bihar, Bengal and Orissa.<sup>2</sup>

In 1765, the court of directors in England refused to ratify the treaty on December 29, 1764, and it was replaced by the treaty of Alighabad (signed on August 16, 1765) by which Shuja-ud-daula agreed to restore to Balwant Singh the province of Varanasi so long as he continued to pay the revenue.<sup>3</sup> In spite of the repeated efforts of Shuja-ud-daula to break this engagement, Balwant Singh retained his estate till his death on August 23, 1770.<sup>4</sup> He was succeeded by his son Chait Singh, who continued to govern this tract on the lines laid down by his father.<sup>5</sup> The parganas were leased to amils (revenue officials) who were the actual administrators and were responsible only to Chait Singh for the revenue. The parganas of Ballia, Mahoud, Sihardpur, Kharachit and Lakhnesar were then held by Mir Sharif Ali and pargana Garha by Bakht Singh (a relative of Chait Singh).<sup>6</sup>

On January 26, 1775, Shuja-ud-daula died and was succeeded by his son Asaf-ud-daula<sup>7</sup>, who was transferred to the East India Company the sovereignty of the districts (including Ballia) dependent on Chait Singh under the treaty signed at Lucknow on May 21, 1775.<sup>8</sup> The administrative powers of Chait Singh remained more or less unchanged.

सत्यमेव जयते

In the beginning Warren Hastings (the governor-general) took keen interest in the affairs of Chait Singh<sup>9</sup> but subsequently strained relations arose between them when Hastings asked Chait Singh to pay five lakhs of rupees as an extraordinary subsidy to

1. Aitchison, C. U. : *A Collection of Treaties, Engagement and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring Countries*, Vol. II, (Calcutta, 1876), p. 5.

2. Roberts, Robinson and Fisher, *op. cit.*, p. 77. Srivastava, A. L. : *Shuja-ud-Daulah*, Vol. II, (Lahore, 1945), pp. 11-12.

3. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 14-15. Aitchison, C. U., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 76.

4. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 112-1.

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 157-159.

6. *Ibid.*, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 100.

7. Srivastava, A. L., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 286, 292-293.

8. Phany, Dharma : *History and administration of the North-Western Provinces* (Subsequently called the Agra Province) (Agra, 1967), p. 22. Aitchison, C. U., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 76-88.

9. *Selected Speeches of Chait Singh and Hastings from Persian Sources—Proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission*, Vol. XXX, Part II, (1950), p. 15.

meet the expenses of the East India Company's army. Chait Singh paid the sum, though with great reluctance, when the demand was repeated and he tried to avoid paying it, Hastings realized the money with the help of the army.<sup>1</sup> Chait Singh now tried to exterminate the power of the British who, when they came to know of this, called in the army from Patna to chastise Chait Singh.<sup>2</sup> He was ultimately deposed in 1781 and was succeeded by Balwant Singh's young grandson Mahip Narain Singh<sup>3</sup>, a nonentity, the police and judicial administration for all practical purposes passing into the hands of the East India Company though the revenue was still nominally under his supervision. The old system of *amils* continued to be maintained in its entirety and the *amils* were allowed to exact from the cultivators whatever they could collect or extort.<sup>4</sup> Hastings failed to set the affairs of Ballia on a firm basis. He gave jagirs in Ballia to his favourites and to subordinate officials. Thus his private secretary, Kishan Kanth Nandi (popularly known as Kantu Babu) was granted an estate in 1785 comprising the talukas of Mathaunj and Mundiari in pargana Kharid and of Duha Behra in pargana Sikandarpur.<sup>5</sup> Another rent-free estate, known as the Sonwani jagir which comprised 14 villages in pargana Ballia, was conferred by Hastings on his munshi, Shariat Ullah Khan.<sup>6</sup>

The maladministration was aggravated by the conduct of the earlier Residents who were political agents appointed by the East India Company for governing their jurisdictions, particularly the notorious Francis Fowke, who imposed several new and illegal cases for his own benefit. Such was the state of this region when Jinathan Duncan was appointed Resident at Varanasi by Lord Cornwallis in July, 1787. In spite of the reformation introduced by Duncan with regard to the settlement of the land revenue and in many other directions, he soon realized that the raja was unfit for the administration of the area.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, in 1794, an agreement was made separating the territories immediately under the British from the raja's family domains. This step was adopted owing to the disorganised state of the region.<sup>8</sup> Continued famines had caused great distress and thrown wide areas out of cultivation and lawlessness was rife in every direction. Of this Ballia afforded several striking examples.<sup>9</sup> In 1789 about 200 Dusadhs from Ballia had attacked and looted the town of Gava (in Bihar). These Dusadhs were protected by the zamindars because they received a yearly tribute from them for providing them with a refuge in their

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1. *Ibid.*, pp. 18-19

2. Salestore, G. N. : *Selections from English Records- Benares Affairs* (1810 1858) vol. II (Allahabad, 1959), pp. 5-6

3. Narain, V. A. : *Jonathon Duncan and Varanasi* (Calcutta, 1956) p., 31

4. *Report of the United Provinces Zamindari Abolition Committee*, Vol. I (Allahabad, 1948), p. 92

5. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 92

6. *Ibid.*, p. 93

7. *Ibid.*, 1783

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*; ...

villages.<sup>1</sup> Occasionally the zamindars themselves followed in the wake of these looters and during Duncan's time some travelling merchants were murdered at Maniar (in ahsil Bansdih) and their money divided among the village owners.<sup>2</sup>

About this time Jagannath Singh, the chief of the Bais of Sikandarpur (in tahsil Bansdih) was wandering about the country with a band of armed followers and levying exactions on the villagers. He had been deprived of his estate by the raja of Varanasi.<sup>3</sup> Jagannath Singh was arrested under Duncan's orders and sent to Varanasi but was released at the instance of the Sengars of Lakhnesar<sup>4</sup> (in tahsil Rasra). The Sengars were considered to be the most independent and turbulent of all the subjects of the East India Company and in 1793 they attacked Duncan's bodyguard when he visited pargana Lakhnesar but Duncan condoned the offence.<sup>5</sup>

Duncan endeavoured to induce Jagannath Singh to adopt a peaceful way of living and the Parsia *taluka* was given to him. But this did not satisfy him and he eventually demanded the restoration of the entire Sikandarpur pargana.<sup>6</sup> This proved too much for the Sengars who arrested him and brought him to Varanasi. There he was again released, this time on the security of the Karsiks (a Rajput clan) of Chit Baragaon (in tahsil Ballia) : but he became hostile, defied the authority of the British and committed robberies, arson and murder in every direction.<sup>7</sup> Troops were, therefore, sent against him on several occasions but on their approach he invariably retired across the Ghaghra so that in 1795 it became necessary to keep a military force permanently stationed in Ballia.<sup>8</sup> A reward of Rs 10,000 was offered for his arrest but it was not till 1800 that he was surprised by a party of cavalry when hiding in a jungle some distance from his fort. He was then sentenced to a long term of imprisonment and obtained his release only in 1816. He was given a pension of Rs. 60 per month and in 1822 (Lord) Amherst generously restored to him the *taluka* of Parsia.<sup>9</sup>

In 1818 the present pargana of Doaba, which had been a part of Bihia in Shahabad (in Bihar) was transferred to the revenue subdivision of Ghazipur, which shortly afterwards was separated from Varanasi and became an independent district comprising not only the district of Ghazipur but also the whole of Ballia. In 1832 a redistribution of territory was effected and parganas Sikandarpur and Bhadaon were assigned to Azamgarh. In 1837 pargana Kopachit was also added to Azamgarh. The tahsil of Ballia comprising the parganas of Ballia, Doaba and Kharid, formed a subdivision of the Ghazipur district.<sup>10</sup>

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1. *Ibid.*

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 153—154

4. *Ibid.*, p. 154

5. *Ibid.*, p. 229

6. *Ibid.*, p. 154

7. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 154

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*

10. *Ibid.*, p. 110



In May, 1857, the news of the outbreak of the freedom struggle at Meerut did not perturb the Chazipur authorities. On June 3, the struggle broke out at Azamgarh and on the same day Ballia rapidly fell into a disorganised state and general anarchy prevailed there for a time. The landholders whose rights had passed into the hands of auction purchasers, everywhere attempted to regain their ancestral holdings.<sup>1</sup> The same day some sepoys rioted at the time of the despatch of the treasury to Varanasi and killed an Englishman. The freedom fighters broke open the jail at Sikandarpur (in tahsil Bansdih) and set the prisoners free. They also looted and destroyed the bungalows of the officials and the courts and government offices.<sup>2</sup> The police were helpless and though martial law was proclaimed, it could not be enforced till the arrival of a hundred soldiers from Varanasi. Their presence restored some order but the roads were no longer safe and the turbulent Rajputs of pargana Ballia<sup>3</sup> could not be controlled. On July 18, the British evacuated Azamgarh but they soon found their position untenable and were compelled to retire with the result that the entire district of Azamgarh was abandoned<sup>4</sup> except for tahsil Nagra (now included in Ballia district).

For several months, Ballia remained comparatively quiet but the condition of affairs underwent a complete change in March, 1858. The bulk of the British army was then concentrated at Lucknow and all the eastern districts of the State were almost denuded of troops. The opportunity was at once taken advantage of by Kunwar Singh (the famous freedom fighter of Bihar), who crossed the Ganga and marched through Ballia into Azamgarh where he was joined by a large number of freedom fighters. On April 15, 1858, he besieged the British troops in Azamgarh but realising that he had no hope against the British forces, he left Azamgarh. Though he retreated, he was not defeated and his troops retired in good order to Nattthapur near the western boundary of the Ballia district. He was followed by (Brigadier) Douglas, who reached Nattthapur on April 16 and the next day came up with the retiring force at Naghai.<sup>5</sup> At Naghai, Kunwar Singh displayed tactical ability, for while he kept Douglas at bay<sup>6</sup> he secured two lines of retreat for his main column. Naghai seems to have been a place very near Nagra, as the pursuit was taken up again on the following day (April 18) as far as Nagra<sup>7</sup> (in tahsil Bansdih). From Nagra, Kunwar Singh marched to Sikandarpur and from there pushed on to Mania (in tahsil Bansdih) on April 20.<sup>8</sup> Robert Davies, the officiating magistrate of Azamgarh wrote to Cubbins, the commissioner of the 5th Division, Varanasi, that at Mania, Kunwar Singh "found himself

1. *Ibid.*, p. 155

2. Rizvi, S. A. A. (Ed.) : *Freedom Struggle in Uttar Pradesh*, Vol. IV (Lucknow, 1959), p. 106

3. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 155

4. Rizvi, S. A. A. *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 26-28

5. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 157, Chaudhuri, S. B. : *Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies* (Calcutta, 1957), p. 331

6. Chaudhuri, S. B., *op. cit.*, p. 331

7. *Ibid.*,

8. *Ibid.*, p. 332

amongst friends and the wants of his troops were voluntarily supplied by the villagers who were allies, universally in his favour. Though their collusion, our spies were seized and detained and our information delayed." On the morning of April 21, Douglas, who, was encamped at Banadih, made a surprise attack on Kunwar Singh's troops at Mania.<sup>2</sup> The latter dispersed in different directions but re-assembled by evening at Sarfihar, a place surrounded by a very thick wood and protected during the night to the river at Sheopur Cha.<sup>3</sup> about 16 km. below Ballia.

In spite of sustaining personal physical injuries, Kunwar Singh, with a large body of sepoys, crossed the Ganga at Sheopur Ghat that night baffling Douglas, outwitting Cumberlege, the colonel, who with two regiments of Madras cavalry had been despatched to intercept Kunwar Singh's movements and notwithstanding the various precautionary steps taken by the Company's officers.<sup>4</sup> Thus this gallant fighter retreated through Ballia to Bihar. Referring to his retreat Hall (a contemporary English writer) observers, Even his opponents speak of his masterly retreat across the Ganges, when closely pursued by the force under Sir E. Lugard, with respect.<sup>5</sup>

By April 22, 1858 Kunwar Singh came back to Jagdishpur (in Bihar) with about 1,000 followers, strongly determined to continue fighting against the British though he had lost one arm and was wounded in his thigh.<sup>6</sup> His retreat from the Ballia region did not break the will of the freedom fighters, most of whom had their homes in Ballia.<sup>7</sup> As Douglas was away from Ballia in pursuit, there were no troops available to maintain order, with the exception of the somewhat inactive column under Cumberlege<sup>8</sup>, who was not able to hold Ballia. The result was that Ballia passed into the hands of the freedom fighters.<sup>9</sup> In the middle of May, 1858, Probyn (who was in charge of Ballia) succeeded in persuading Cumberlege to attack the hankies of Baragaon without waiting for a siege train. When at length the force arrived, Baragaon was found empty and after destroying the houses of the more prominent freedom fighters, the British troops returned to Chazipur.<sup>10</sup>

Matters continued in the same state till July, 1858, when British forces again marched out to Ballia. The freedom fighters had destroyed a bridge on the road but the British managed to reach Ballia which was occupied by Sikh troops under them.<sup>11</sup> The remainder of the British troops marched to Baira (a town in

1. Datta, K. K.: *Biography of Kunwar Singh and Amer Singh*, (Patna, 1887), p. 152.

2. *Ib id.*, p. 153.

3. *Ibid.*,

4. *Ibid.*,

5. *Ib id.*, p. 154.

6. *Ibid.*,

7. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 158.

8. *Ibid.*,

9. Rivet, S. A. A., *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, p. 272.

10. Nevill, H. R., *op. cit.*, p. 158.

11. *Ibid.*, pp. 158—159.

tahsil Ballia) where they were besieged for several days by a large number of freedom fighters. When the British forces reached Bairaia, the Indian sepoys moved towards Ballia with the intention of capturing that town but their attack was unsuccessful and they were defeated.<sup>1</sup> From that time Ballia gradually settled down though it continued to remain hostile to the British till the advent of winter, when Douglas finally defeated the freedom fighters.<sup>2</sup>

In the later half of the 19th century, men like Dadabhai Naoroji, S. N. Banerji, G. K. Gokhale, B. G. Tilak and Madan Mohan Malaviya made a deep impression not only on all classes of Indians but even on Englishmen and foreigners as visible embodiments of the intellectual and cultural glory of India. Ballia could not remain untouched by these national leaders. In 1908, the district came into prominence as a centre of nationalist activities. In that year the government prosecuted B. G. Tilak for his patriotic and nationalist writings which were pronounced to be seditious and he was sentenced to six years' transportation and a fine of Rs 1,000. The news led to the closing of shops and to strikes by students in Ballia. When it was rumoured that Tilak was released by the government, the students of the government school, Ballia, took out a large procession celebrating the release. When the processionists reached the kutchery, the police made a brutal lathi charge, maiming many students. About 25 were expelled from school and many willingly gave up their studies and continued their political activities with vigour.<sup>3</sup>

Annie Besant's Home Rule movement of 1916 was also supported by the people of the district. In 1917, when the government of Madras issued orders for the internment of Annie Besant (the organiser of the movement), a storm of indignation swept over Ballia. Protest meetings were held all over the district and many persons joined the movement and at least five persons were arrested in this connection.<sup>4</sup>

The infamous Rowlatt Act of 1919, which aimed at drastically curtailing the liberties of the people by giving government unlimited powers to arrest them without a warrant and to detain them without trial, gave vent to feelings of deep resentment and raised a storm of protest all over the district. Mahatma Gandhi's appeal for a complete nationwide *hartal* in protest against this enactment met with instant response from the people of Ballia who observed a national week from April 6 to April 13 by holding meetings at which resolutions were adopted condemning the Act. At many places business remained suspended for some days.<sup>5</sup> This agitation led to the realisation that the people had

1. *Ibid.*, p. 159

2. *Ibid.*,

3. Prasad, Ram Das : *Swatantrata Sangram Men Baghi Ballia*, (Hindi text) (Ballia, 1976), p. 5

4. *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6

5. *Ibid.*, p. 6

to be properly organised and, as a result, a district Indian National Congress Committee was formed.

In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi launched his famous non-co-operation movement and it received enthusiastic response from all sections of the people in the district where a special force of 2,600 volunteers was also raised for implementing this programme. Ballia subscribed a sum of Rs 13,000 to the Tilak Memorial Swaraj Fund.<sup>1</sup> Night patrolling by volunteers was introduced to win over the sympathy of the people to the movement. Meetings were organised in every corner of the district and large processions were taken out in Ballia, Sahatwar, Rasra, Dumria and Nagra. Liquor shops were picketed and *tar* (palm) trees (from the juice of which arrack is made) were cut down by the score. British goods were boycotted and foreign goods burnt in public. Khadi and the Gandhi cap became the fashion of the day. Law courts and government offices were also boycotted and normal studies in educational institutions were seriously disrupted as students left their classes to take part in meetings and processions. Such was the enthusiasm of the people for the movement that many foreign cloth merchants in Ballia and a ganja seller in Rasra willingly burnt their stocks publicly. Alarmed at the mass enthusiasm for the movement, the government resorted to ruthless measures to curb it. Meetings and processions were broken up by force and defenceless and unarmed demonstrators were subjected to brutal lathi charges and wholesale arrests not only of Congress volunteers but of even those remotely suspected of national sympathy, were made.

Mahatma Gandhi suspended the movement in 1922 as the result of the Chauri Chaura (in district Gorakhpur) incident. But the movement roused the consciousness of the people against alien rule and gave them new confidence and courage to fight the battle for freedom.

On April 4, 1922, Jawaharlal Nehru visited Ballia and addressed a meeting of about 3,000 persons. On June 21 and 22, Motilal Nehru and Madan Mohan Malaviya arrived and addressed meetings at Rasra and Ballia. At both the places they were given rousing receptions. They appealed for the promotion of *swadeshi*, particularly the revival of hand spinning and hand weaving, removal of untouchability among the Hindus, promotion of Hindu-Muslim unity and prohibition of the use of alcoholic drinks. Their appeals were crowned with signal success and also led to the establishment of the national school at Bansdih where the pattern of studies followed Mahatma Gandhi's curriculum for national schools. The use of khadi was popularised by distributing spinning wheels in the rural areas of the district.

In 1923, Jawaharlal Nehru came to the district again and addressed a large gathering in Ballia. He condemned Mahatma Gandhi's arrest and imprisonment (he was tried at Ahmedabad on March 18, 1922, and sentenced to six years' imprisonment) and called for a hartal. As a result a complete hartal was observed in the district on March 18, 1923.

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1. *Ibid.*, p. 7

That same year some volunteers of the district participated in the Nagpur Jhandha Satyagraha which was directed against the promulgation of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against a procession carrying the national flag which was taken out at Nagpur on May 1, the participants in which were arrested and prosecuted.

In 1925 the national leaders, Purushottam Das Tandon and Jawaharlal Nehru, visited the district and attended the inauguration of the Gandhi Ashram at Milki

The year 1925 was marked by the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Ballia. He was given a rousing reception by all sections of the people. On October 16, he also addressed a largely attended meeting at the Mahant school grounds. He recalled the district's enthusiastic participation during the non-co-operation movement and applauded its people.

In 1928, when the Simon Commission visited India, it was subjected to boycott all over the country. In Ballia all the schools run by the district board (Zila Parishad) were closed and a complete hartal was observed. Protest processions and demonstrations were also organised. Placards and banners with the words, "Simon, go back," were displayed and black flags were waved.

January 26, 1930, was declared to be Independence Day and thousand in Ballia, as every where else in India, repeated the solemn and inspiring pledge, "We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people to have freedom... We believe, therefore, that India must sever the British connection and attain *purna* (complete) *swaraj*". A procession carrying the tricolour paraded the streets of Ballia.

The civil disobedience movement was launched in 1930 and Ballia played an important role in the movement. Large numbers of volunteers were enlisted not only from the town of Ballia but also from the remotest villages to organise the movement of which the salt satyagraha was an integral part. On April 12, 1930, the salt law was broken and salt was manufactured publicly at Ballia, the salt so manufactured being auctioned and the highest bid of Rs 20 being made by a government pleader. This was followed by the manufacture of salt at Reoti, Rasra and Bansdih.

In its endeavour to suppress the movement, the government adopted repressive measures. Numerous arrests were made, lathi charges were resorted to and indignities were heaped on the freedom fighters. The Indian National Congress was banned, its offices were sealed and the tricolour torn and dishonoured. But the people kept up their non-violent struggle and the picketing of liquor, toddy, foreign cloth shops and schools and government offices continued. On July 1, 1930, a batch of volunteers picketed the court at Ballia. The police was called in and 19 arrests were made.

In 1931, the civil disobedience movement was temporarily suspended in view of the sitting of the round table conference (in London) but on its failure a hartal was observed in Ballia. The government promulgated Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. What unnerved the government most was the fact that after their release the political prisoners courted arrest repeatedly and defied the law in Ballia, Rasra, Bansdih, Sikandarpur and Sahatwar. Nearly all the prominent local leaders were put behind the bars.

The governor of U. P. was shown the tricolour on his arrival in Ballia and was greeted with shouts of "Governor, go back". The four leaders who shouted this slogan were taken into custody and dragged to the jail where they were beaten mercilessly. The police combed the district to hunt out political persons and arrested any it pleased on mere suspicion or whim or even to pay off old scores. But the movement continued till 1934.

Under the Government of India Act of 1935, the Indian National Congress decided to contest the elections for the Provincial Assembly and both the seats allotted to the district were won by it. On February 21, 1940, in a meeting of the district Congress conference where 4,000 persons were assembled, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai and Sampurnanand urged the support of the Congress.

In the individual satyagraha movement of 1940-41, scores of persons in the district courted arrest. The people of Ballia successfully carried into effect the Quit India movement of August 9, 1942. The news of the arrest of the Congress leaders at Bombay reached Ballia the same day.<sup>1</sup> The next day all the schools in Ballia were closed and the students went round in batches shouting patriotic slogans. On August 11, the people and the students took out a procession which ended in a meeting at which the leader called upon the people to accept the challenge of the government and the leader was arrested.<sup>2</sup>

On August 12, a students' procession was taken out to demand the closure of the courts. This was stopped by 100 armed constables and in the ensuing lathi charge many were badly wounded.<sup>3</sup> The same day, in a speech in the British Parliament, the Secretary of State for India alleged that the Congress programmes included action like a general strike in industry and trade, the paralysing of the administration and the courts, cutting of telegraph and telephone wires and boycotting army recruitment centres. This speech triggered off further anti-British action<sup>4</sup> and on August 13, the Bilthara Road railway station was attacked and the building was burnt. The currency notes found

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1. Gupta, Manmathnath; *History of the Indian Revolutionary Movement* (Bombay, 1972), p. 173

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*

in the safes were not looted but were burnt.<sup>1</sup> The water pump and the water tank were also smashed. A goods train was looted and the engine was smashed and seed stores, police-stations and post-offices were attacked<sup>2</sup>.

On August 16, the Rasra treasury was attacked and two days later the police-station at Bairia was reattacked as the station officer had removed the tricolour which the freedom fighters had planted there on August 15, after gaining control of the place. The infuriated mob, numbering about 25,000, raided the police-station and numerous attempts were made to rehoist the flag. Men and women of all ages as well as children took active part in the raid, as in other parts of the district, without fearing reprisal by bullets. The police responded with a volley of shots resulting in the death of at least 20 and injuring about a hundred. A young man of 20 reaching his goal to plant the tricolour, was hit by four bullets and died on the spot. Dharam Das Misra (a local leader) and a boy of 12 years also dropped dead instantaneously while trying to hoist the flag on the police-station. The police kept up the firing for about six hours from about 14 hours. Undeterred by the firing, the deaths and the injuries, people maintained pressure to gain control of the police-station as they were determined to capture the police officer and others responsible for the firing but at dead of night, when it was raining, the police staff slipped away, and the thana was captured the next morning.

By this time the freedom fighters had gained control of many other places in the district including the tahsil headquarters of Bansdih, the police-station and the seed store. The indiscriminate firing at the Bairia police-station and at other places compelled the people to take up arms, ignoring altogether the spirit of non-violence which had been their guiding principle till then. The district administrators had become nervous as the district was fast going out of their control and as all their talks of arriving at a compromise with the leaders of the freedom fighters in jail had failed as the latter wanted that the officers of the district administration serve faithfully under local Panchayati government after handing over the charge of the district administration to them. To this the district magistrate is reported to have said that in that event they would be hanged and he would be sacked. On August 19, about 50,000 persons armed with guns, lathies, spears, etc., proceeded towards the jail to free their leaders and other participants. When the (Indian) district magistrate learnt that the people were approaching in thousands to free their comrades in order to attack the government offices and to loot the treasury, he went to the leaders in jail and met Chittu Pandey, a local leader, and others and offered to release them provided they pacified the crowd. But as the leaders did not agree, he suggested that they should at least take the responsibility

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1. *Ibid.*

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 173-174

of seeing that no harm reached the treasury, the prison and government property. As no guarantee was given to him, he had no option but to release the freedom fighters in the faint hope of saving the treasury and other government property. Before their release they assured him that efforts would be made to maintain peace as far as possible. This not only marked the first victory of the freedom struggle but was a symbol in this small and economically backward district of Ballia of the downfall of the British raj. After their release, the leaders addressed a mammoth meeting at the town hall when Chittu Pandey exhorted the people not to indulge in sabotage or similar activities. But there was a difference of opinion and many opposed this point of view as they had witnessed the brutal killing of their companions and their feelings had been roused vehemently, so sabotage activities continued.<sup>1</sup> A police officer who had the students beaten was caught and belaboured.<sup>2</sup> The residences of government officers and non-officials who had given support to the government were sacked. Shops selling foreign cloth and liquor were attacked. The district magistrate, who was by now certain that the treasury would be looted, directed a deputy collector to burn the currency notes after noting down their numbers. These instructions were carried out but lakhs of rupees were pocketed by the police in the process.<sup>3</sup>

On August 20, a police van went round the town firing at passers by indiscriminately contrary to the assurance given to the leaders.<sup>4</sup> In the absence of any planned programme, many administrative centres remained to be captured<sup>5</sup>, but they had already ceased to function properly. The freedom fighters constituted separate panchayats for different localities for carrying on the civil administration and Congress volunteers were appointed for the defence of the city.<sup>6</sup> By now the people had acquired complete control of the city so much so that they declared 'Independence' for Ballia on August 20, 1942, and a popular government was formed with Chittu Pandey as its first head.<sup>7</sup> According to a government report, seven out of ten police-stations of the district were in the hands of the freedom fighters and Congress raj had been proclaimed.<sup>8</sup>

On August 22, 1942, Chittu Pandey called a meeting to which he invited the district magistrate who did not appear but sent a notice to be read out at the meeting to the effect that anybody who spread terrorism in the district would be arrested.<sup>9</sup>

1. Gupta, Manmathnath, *op. cit.*, p. 174

2. *Ibid.*,

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*, pp. 174-175

7. *Ibid.*, p. 175; Upadhyaya, Devnath: *Ballia Men Kranti Aur Daman*, (Hindi text; Allahabad, 1946), p. 156; Gupta, Durga Prasad. *Ballia Men San 42 ki Jan Kranti*, (Hindi text; Ballia, 1974), p. 78

8. Gupta, Manmathnath, *op. cit.*, p. 175

9. *Ibid.*



During the night of August 22-23, military forces entered Ballia and the popular government was overthrown.<sup>1</sup> Then the horrors of the British police and military were let loose upon the people of Ballia, signalled by an orgy of loot and plunder, rape and ravage, beating and shooting, firing and burning.<sup>2</sup>

All leaders of the revolution, young and old, were arrested, beaten and tortured. The houses of all those who had helped or were supposed to have helped the fighters, were burnt down. The leaders were made to climb trees and were bayonnetted.<sup>3</sup> People were even stripped and flogged publicly. Collective fines were arbitrarily imposed and fantastically large amounts were collected. People arrested were first mercilessly beaten, then kept in the lock-up and starved. Those prisoners who refused to answer questions were suspended by their legs<sup>4</sup>. More painful and inhuman tortures were inflicted on 'dangerous' prisoners which have few parallels in modern history.<sup>5</sup>

The prisons were so crowded with political prisoners that there was not even any space for sitting nor were they provided with any bedding or given other facilities. Instead of the usual jail utensils they were given earthen bowls and once a day were given chapatis made from chaff which caused dysentery.<sup>6</sup> Many contracted diseases by the time they were released but when the Congress was in power in Ballia, government officers were well treated.<sup>7</sup>

Between August 1942 and 1944, no one in Ballia dared to wear the Gandhi cap as those found wearing it even as a matter of habit, were shot dead. So great was the terror that no lawyer dared to come forward to defend the arrested victims, many of whom were awarded 25 to 30 years' imprisonment. The few who did were arrested on some charge or other. In March, 1944, Feroze Gandhi with his lawyer companion of Allahabad came to Ballia to assess the situation. They proceeded from the railway station to the Chowk. As usual, they were wearing their Gandhi caps which had not been seen for some time and which infused a new wave of confidence, self respect and enthusiasm in the people. All along the way they were surrounded by a growing crowd which became a procession. Many other lawyers came from Allahabad to render legal assistance to the freedom fighters of Ballia. This virtually ended the reign of terror let

1. Majumdar, R. C. : *History of the Freedom Movement in India*, Vol. III, (Calcutta, 1963), pp. 656-657

2. *Ibid.*, p. 657

3. Gupta, Manmathnath, *op. cit.*, p. 175

4. *Ibid.*, p. 176

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid.*

loose by the British administration since the arrival of the British army in Ballia on August 22/23, 1942.

The sacrifices of the people earned for Ballia the reputation of 'Revolutionary Ballia' during the Quit India movement of 1942. The conquest of Ballia by the freedom fighters attracted the attention of the British Parliament also. After the suppression of the freedom struggle in Ballia, to allay the nervousness of his superiors, the British officer in charge is reported to have sent a telegram 'Ballia reconquered' to the governor of U.P. (Maurice Hallett).

In 1944 the district was also visited by Purushottam Das Tandon and Sampurnanand, two national leaders but as no body was prepared to act as host, the former returned the same evening after assessing the situation, the latter staying for a night only. His host was subjected to torture and his house looted by the police. In October, 1945, Jawaharlal Nehru visited Ballia again by when the situation had returned to normal and about 50,000 persons heard his address and were greatly relieved to find that their sacrifice had not been in vain and that they were now under the protection of their national leaders.

The Quit India movement showed that there was universal discontent with British rule, an indication that the British could not hold India for any length of time. By 1945, when the Second World War ended, British public opinion had veered round to the granting of complete independence to India.

At last on August 15, 1947, the Country, and with it the district, was liberated from alien rule and declared to be independent. The Country became free but before the people could fully realise that liberation and victory had become a fact, they woke to find that it had been partitioned. About 333 displaced persons from Pakistan came to settle in the district and were rehabilitated. This day has since been declared to be one of the three national days of India. The district celebrates Independence Day in a befitting manner. The national flag is unfurled on governmental and other buildings, processions are taken out and other types of celebrations and festivities are held.

On hearing the news of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (on January 30, 1948), the whole district went into mourning, educational institutions, markets, offices, etc., were closed and several processions were taken out and meetings held to mourn the tragic and irreparable loss of the father of the nation. Though he died, he still lives in the memory of the people and is remembered on October 2, which is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti, in the district as in other parts of the State. On this

occasion meetings, discussions and discourses are organised all over the district to eulogise his great deeds and ideas. The people also take a pledge to serve the nation and follow his way of life.

With the enactment and adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, India became a sovereign democratic republic. The day was celebrated in the district by taking out processions, holding meetings and illuminating houses, shops and government and other buildings. This day is solemnly observed with enthusiasm every year all over the district as Republic Day.

The nation has always venerated those who participated in the freedom struggle. On the occasion of the celebration of the silver jubilee year (1972) of Independence, 616 persons of the district, who had taken part in India's freedom struggle or their dependents, were presented with *tamra patra* or copper plate inscriptions placing on record the services rendered by them or their forbears.



## CHAPTER III

### PEOPLE

#### POPULATION

According to the census of 1971, the number of persons enumerated as living in the district was 15,88,935 of which the males numbered 8,04,421 and the females 7,84,514, giving a sex ratio of 975 females to 1,000 males. The density of population in the district, which covered an area of 3,183 sq. km. was 499 (urban 3,188 and rural 499) per sq. km. as against the State average of 300 persons per sq. km.

The tahsilwise density of population in the district was 474 in Rasra, 470 in Bansdih and 543 in Ballia. The rural density was 480 and the urban 3,188 per sq. km. The highest rural density was 509 persons per sq. km. in tahsil Ballia while the highest number of persons per sq. km. was 5,422 in the urban area of tahsil Rasra.

The following statement gives an account of the population in 1971 according to tahsils and subdivisions :

Tahsil or sub-division	Area (in sq. km.)	Males	Females	Total
Rasra				
Total	1,095.6	2,58,662	2,52,450	5,11,112
Rural	1,093.0	2,51,371	2,45,699	4,97,070
Urban	2.6	7,291	6,251	14,042
Bansdih				
Total	966.8	2,28,068	2,26,039	4,54,107
Rural	962.7	2,22,146	2,20,344	4,42,490
Urban	4.1	5,922	5,695	11,617
Ballia				
Total	1,148.9	3,17,691	3,06,025	6,23,716
Rural	1,132.8	2,91,738	2,84,877	5,76,615
Urban	16.1	25,953	21,148	47,101
Total	3,183	8,04,421	8,84,514	15,88,935

Tahsil Ballia is the most densely populated tahsil in the district. It has about 39.4 per cent of the total population, the other two tahsils of Rasra and Bansdih containing about 32.1 and 28.5 per cent respectively. On July 1, 1971, the district, with an area of 3,183 km. and a population of 15,88,933, occupied among the other districts of the State the 51st and 26th positions respectively in respect of size and population.

### GROWTH OF POPULATION

The earliest attempt to enumerate the inhabitants of the district was made in 1853, when its population totalled 8,33,368, with an average density of 714 to the square mile. The figures were also calculated from the totals of those parganas of Ghazipur and Azamgarh which went to form the present district. The manifest incorrectness of the total became obvious at the next census, that of 1865, which was a more scientific attempt to obtain an accurate enumeration. The district then contained 6,67,088 persons but no reasons have been adduced for the decrease by 1,66,280 though this may have been due to the number of deaths suffered in the freedom struggle of 1857 and the unfavourable seasons that immediately preceded the census. The enumeration of 1872 showed a population of 7,19,120, subject to the reservations mentioned above with regard to subsequent alterations of the boundary or 7,26,791 if the population of the parganas added subsequently be taken into consideration. The increase in these seven years was 59,703, the average density being 588 to the square mile. At the census of 1881, the first to be taken after Ballia acquired a separate existence, the district had not yet assumed its present form as pargana Garha still belonged to Ghazipur and *tappa* Dhaka also remained in that district, its amalgamation with Sikanderpur West taking place two years later. Allowing for these and certain other changes, Ballia contained in 1881 a population of 9,75,673 persons. The increase amounted to 2,48,382, the resultant density per sq. mile averaging 783. At the census of 1891 it was for the first time possible to ascertain the actual population of the district which then had 9,95,327 persons, the increase being 19,654. In the absence of unfavourable seasons and epidemics of unusual magnitude, the increase was small and the pressure on the land had almost reached its limit as the average density had become 793 to the sq. mile.

In 1901, it was ascertained at the census that the inhabitants of Ballia numbered 9,87,768, showing a decrease of 7,559 persons, a decline due partly to an abnormal death-rate caused by fever and cholera in certain years.

The decennial growth with variation in population during the period 1901 to 1971 was as follows :

Year	Persons	Male	Female	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation		
1901	9,89,420	4,74,626	5,14,794	—	—		
1911	8,48,371	4,24,939	4,23,432	—	1,41,049 — 14.26		
1921	8,33,510	4,27,661	4,05,849	—	14,861 — 1.75		
1931	9,15,855	4,70,387	4,45,468	82,345	+	9.88	
1941	10,57,485	5,32,543	5,24,942	+	1,41,630	+	15.46
1951	11,98,916	5,97,680	6,11,236	+	1,41,431	+	13.37
1961	13,44,016	6,60,453	6,83,563	+	1,45,100	+	12.10
1971	15,88,935	8,04,421	7,84,514	+	2,44,919	+	18.22

### Immigration and Emigration

In 1961, among the people enumerated in the district, 93.2 per cent were born within the district, 4 per cent in other districts of the State and 2.8 per cent in other parts of India. The number of persons born in other countries was 334. Among those from other countries, 161 were from Pakistan, 125 from Nepal, 1 from South Africa, 2 each from Canada and the United States of America and 43 from other countries. The duration of residence of about three-fourths (74.9 per cent) of the immigrants was over 10 years. About 90.8 per cent immigrants were returned from the rural and the remaining 9.2 per cent from the urban areas. Among them 14.2 per cent was male and 85.8 per cent female. The large percentage of females was due to migration because of marriage. Of the immigrants from adjacent States, 35,057 persons (2,892 males and 32,165 females) were from Bihar, 134 persons (70 males and 64 females) from Punjab, 29 males and 43 females from Madhya Pradesh, 27 males and 27 females from Rajasthan and 13 males and 13 females from Delhi. The number of immigrants from other districts of the State was 53,035 (2,972 males and 44,863 females). Like other eastern districts of the State, a large number of persons from Ballia migrate to the industrial centres of Calcutta, Bombay and elsewhere in search of employment.

### Distribution between Urban and Rural Areas

In 1971, the district comprised 2,456 villages, 1,912 being inhabited and 644 uninhabited. The extent of population in the inhabited villages in 1971 was as follows :

Range of Population	No. of inhabited villages	Persons	Male	Female
Less than 200	547	48,991	25,140	23,851
200-499	528	1,76,565	89,477	87,088
500-999	389	2,75,161	1,38,588	1,36,573
1,000-1999	284	2,94,479	1,99,156	1,95,323
2,000-4999	135	3,94,920	1,98,977	1,95,943
5,000-9999	19	1,13,583	57,170	56,413
10,000 and above	—	1,12,476	56,747	55,729

About 95.4 per cent of the people lived in the rural areas. Out of 1,912 inhabited villages, 917 were of small size, each having less than 500 inhabitants, while medium-size villages, with a population varying between 500-2000, numbered 419. The remaining 80 villages were large ones, with a population of more than 2,000 persons.

The number of towns in 1971 was 3 which contained 4.58 per cent of the total population. The population of the towns and some other details are as follows :

Name of town with category	Tahsil	Area	Population		
			Persons	Male	Female
Ballia (municipal board)	Ballia	16.11	47,101	25,953	21,148
Rasra (notified area)	Rasra	2.59	14,042	7,291	6,751
Reoti (notified area)	Bansdih	4.12	11,617	5,922	5,695

In the census of 1971, only Ballia, Rasra and Reoti have been classified as towns, though in 1951 all the places having local bodies were enumerated as towns. Since then the change in the concept of towns has reduced their number from 10 in 1951 to two in 1961 and three in 1971.

The population distribution in the urban and rural areas of different age groups in 1971 was as follows :

Age Group	District Population			Rural Population			Urban Population		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
0—14	6,51,190	3,36,231	3,14,959	6,21,212	3,20,455	3,00,757	29,978	15,776	14,202
15—19	1,37,568	71,943	65,625	1,30,515	67,718	62,797	7,053	4,225	2,828
20—24	1,25,622	61,939	63,683	1,19,907	58,772	61,135	5,715	3,167	2,548
25—29	1,15,918	52,215	63,703	1,10,749	49,543	61,206	5,169	2,672	2,497
30—39	1,89,726	89,456	1,00,270	1,80,377	84,673	95,704	0,349	4,783	4,566
40—49	1,43,129	72,781	70,348	1,36,375	68,969	67,404	6,754	3,812	2,942
50—59	1,10,444	56,305	51,139	1,06,191	56,874	49,317	4,253	2,431	1,822
60 and above	1,15,330	60,546	54,784	1,00,848	56,251	42,597	4,482	2,295	2,187
Age not stated	8	5	3	1	--	1	7	5	2
Total	15,88,935	8,04,421	7,84,514	15,16,175	7,65,255	7,50,920	72,780	39,166	33,594



The tahsilwise rural and urban population in 1961 and 1971 is mentioned in Statement I at the end of the chapter which also gives an indication of the drift of the population between the urban and rural areas of the district.

### Displaced Persons

After 1947, about 333 (males 177 and females 156) displaced persons, particularly Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, mostly from Pakistan, came into the district. According to the census records of 1951, there were 7 and 172 such persons who arrived in 1946 and 1947 respectively, 218 and 40 in 1948 and 1949 respectively, 30 and one in 1950 and 1951 respectively and 7 in unstated years. About 161 persons came in 1961, 7 being from unstated districts.

### LANGUAGE

The speech of practically the entire population is the Bihari form of eastern Hindi and the particular dialect current in Ballia is known as the southern variety of Bhojpuri, itself a subgroup of Bihari. The distinctions are marginal and the three blend into one another without any clear line of demarcation. The returns of the last census (that of 1971) showed that these two speeches were spoken by 97.17 per cent of the population and Urdu by about 2.81 per cent. Other languages spoken include Bengali and Panjabi. The languages and dialects spoken in the district are listed in Statement II at the end of the chapter.

### Script

The Devanagri script is used for writing Hindi and its allied branches such as Garhwali, Kumauni, etc., which are spoken by some people in the district. Persian is the script used for Urdu and the other languages use their own scripts.

### RELIGION AND CASTE

The numbers of the adherents of different religions in the district, as in 1971, were as follows :

Religion	Adherents						
	Total		Male		Female		
	Persons	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Hinduism	1,501,992	7,60,922	7,41,070	7,27,578	33,344	7,12,746	28,324
Islam	84,463	42,750	42,713	37,048	5,702	37,566	5,147
Christianity	1,277	638	639	621	17	608	31
Sikhism	198	108	90	8	100	—	90
Jainism	4	2	2	—	2	—	2
Buddhism	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other religions and persuasions	51	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Principal Communities

In 1971, there were 94.2 per cent Hindus in the district. The remaining 5.8 per cent of the district population comprised Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Buddhists.

**Hindus**—The major communities in the district is the Hindu with its branches of the Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Kayasthas and Bhuniyars.

Among the Brahmanas the more numerous is the Kanaujia branch but there are a considerable number of Sarwaris and Sakaldipis as well. The Rajputs, who claim to be Kshatriyas, take the foremost place as regards their aggregate number. They are found in great numbers in all the three tahsils but predominate in Bansdih. They belong to a large variety of clans the Sengars, Karcholias, Bais Donwars, Naraunis, Barwars, Kinwars, Dikhits, Pachtorias, Kausiks, Bisens, Gautams, Chauhans, Chandels, Lohatanias, Hayabbans and Nikumbhs. Besides these, there are many other Rajput clans such as the Ujjains or Panwars, Tetihas, Arthaians, Kaksna, Gaharwars, Bachgotis, Panwars, Raghubanis, Rathors, Surabansis, Rajkumars, Sikarwars, Chandra-bansis and Amethias.

The Bhuniyars live mostly in the tahsil of Ballia. They are supposed to be of indigenous origin and to have intermarried with both Brahmanas and Rajputs. In popular estimation they share something of the sanctity which attaches to the Brahmanas, their subdivisions being the same as those of the Thakur (the local term for Kshatriyas) such as the Gautam, Kausik, Kinwar, Sikarwar, and Donwar, their important clans represented here being the Sengar, Karcholias Bais, Donwar, Narauni, Barwar, Pachtoria, Bisen, Chauhan, Chandel, Lohatania, Hayabon and Nikumbh.

The occupational groups of the district are the Kori, Bhar, Kahar, Teli, Luria, Lohar, Dusadhas Mollaha, Kurmi, Kamkar Nai, Kumhar, Bind, Barhai, Basor and Bari.

Ahirs form the backbone of the agricultural community, being cultivators of a high order, Vaishyas are evenly distributed throughout the district, their subdivisions represented here are being the Kandua, Agrahari, Rauniar, Kesarwani, Kasaundhan, Baranwal, Rastogi and Agarwal.

In this district, elsewhere in the State, the Harijans form the lowest strata of society. They are still socially, economically and educationally backward. For their advancement, a large number of their groups and subgroups have been classified as the Scheduled castes, and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward classes.

The tahsilwise distribution of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as in 1971, was as follows :

District/Tahsil	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
<b>District</b>						
Rural	2,15,652	1,09,178	1,06,474	173	93	80
Urban	5,704	3,026	2,678	8	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,21,356</b>	<b>1,12,204</b>	<b>1,09,152</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Ballia</b>						
Rural	67,119	34,596	32,523	167	87	80
Urban	3,851	2,048	1,803	8	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,970</b>	<b>36,644</b>	<b>34,326</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Rasra</b>						
Rural	98,039	49,143	46,896	3	3	—
Urban	1,108	567	541	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,147</b>	<b>49,710</b>	<b>49,437</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Bansdih</b>						
Rural	50,494	25,439	25,055	3	3	—
Urban	745	411	334	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,239</b>	<b>25,850</b>	<b>25,389</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>

About two dozen subdivisions of the Scheduled Castes are represented in the district among whom the more numerous are the Chamars and Dobgars. The number of person of the Scheduled Tribes are 181 and they are mainly found in the Ballia tahsil.

**Muslims**— The majority of Muslims in the district belongs to the Sunni sect. Among them the most numerous are the Julahas or weavers and a majority of them follows the ancestral occupation of weaving cloth. Closely akin to them are the Behnas or Dhunas, whose profession is that of cotton carding. The Sheikhs occupy the second place and live mostly in tahsil Rasra, their subdivisions being the Siddiqui, Ansari, Quraishi, Usmani, Faruqui and Abbasi. The Pathans reside mainly in tahsil Ballia and a few belong to the better known subdivisions—the Yusufzai and Lodi. Quite a few describe themselves as Ghaznavis. The Iraqis, generally shop-keepers and money-lenders, reside mainly in Rasra, their chief settlements being in Lakhnesar and Sikandarpur.

The occupational subdivisions are the Darzi, Faqir, Hajjam or Nai, Churihar, Kunjra, Bhat, Rangrez, Qassab and Dafail.

**Christians**—There were 1,277 Christians in the district in 1971, males and females beings evenly divided. Generally they belong to the Roman Catholic and Protestant sects and most of them are in government service.

**Sikhs**—In 1971, the Sikhs numbered 198 which included 90 women. They are mostly immigrants from Pakistan. Most of them are found in urban areas and are engaged in various types of trades and commerce and a few are also in government service.

There were four Jains and one Buddhist in the district in 1971.

### Religious Beliefs and Practices

**Hinduism**—Hinduism, as obtaining in the district as elsewhere, is a collection of diverse beliefs, doctrines and practices ranging from polytheism to absolute monoism and the identification of the *atman* (individual soul) with the *paramatman* (divine essence). One of the important features of the religion is the belief in the transmigration of the soul and rebirth after death according to ones action in this life. It includes the worship of a pantheon of gods and goddesses in their various aspects, the chief being Siva, Vishnu, Rama, Sita, Krishna, Surya, Hanuman, Ganesh, etc., and nine forms of Devi. The practice of taking a holy bath in a river particularly Ganga is also common in the district. Temples dedicated to various deities are normal centres of religious congregation and worship. Some people have a separate place for puja in their houses. Fasts are also observed on various week days or according to certain dates of the lunar months and on important festivals like Nav Durga, Ram Navami, Janmastami, Sivaratri, etc. Discourses and recitations from religious books like the *Gita*, *Ramayana*, *Bhagwata*, etc., and collective singing of devotional hymns (*kirtan*) are also sometimes arranged privately or publicly. Many people, particularly the illiterates and more backward sections of the community, indulge in various superstitions practices such as the propitiation ghosts and spirits, etc.

The followers of the Arya Samaj, who are monotheists and repudiate idol worship and ritual, are sizeable number here. The members of this religious institution do not worship in temples and generally perform *sandhya* (morning and evening prayers) themselves. Some of the staunch followers of this sect also perform *havan* daily.

**Islam**—The Muslims of the district believe, as elsewhere, that there is one God, Allah, and follow the principles laid down in the *Kuran* by their prophet Muhammad. Islam enjoins five duties upon its followers the recitation of the *kalmas* an expression of faith

in God the prophet Muhammad), the offering of *namaz* five times a day, the keeping of *roza* (fast) during the month of Ramadan; *hajj* to Mecca; and giving *zakat* (charity). Their holy book is the *Koran*.

Muslims say their prayers *namaz* regularly but are more particular about the *namaz* of Friday. On important festivals like Id-ul-Fitr and Id-uz-Zuha, they offer *namaz* collectively in *idgahs*. The sacrifices of animals is also a common feature on the occasion of Id-uz-Zuha. The district has many mosques but the more important ones are at Rasra, Nawanagar and Ballia.

The majority of the Muslims of the district belong to the Sunni and a small percentage to the Shia sect. Many Muslims profess faith in *pirs* (saints) and hold *urs*. The Milad festival, to commemorate the birth of prophet Muhammad in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, is celebrated with rejoicing, when houses are illuminated and religious discourses highlighting the teaching of Islam are arranged.

**Sikhism**—Sikhism is a monotheistic religion, disavowing idolatry and eschewing all caste distinctions. It enjoins on its followers the wearing of a *kangi* (comb), a *kara* (iron bangle) a *kirpan* (dagger) and *kachha* (drawers) and prohibits the cutting of the *kesh* (hair). The *Grantha*, the holy book, is taken out in procession on especial occasions, particularly when the birth anniversaries of their gurus are celebrated. They also perform collective marriages in *gurdwaras*. In summer they offer water and sweet drinks to everyone on certain occasions.

**Christianity**—The Christians believe in one God and that Jesus Christ is his son and is the saviour of mankind. The *Bible* is their holy book and congregational prayers are performed in churches or chapels, particularly on Sundays.

**Buddhism**—As elsewhere, Buddhists believe in the eightfold path of righteousness—right views, right aspirations, right speech, right conduct, right living, right effort, right mindedness and right meditation. Adherence to this path leads to the end of sorrow and to the attainment of peace, enlightenment and nirvana. Avoiding the two extremes—one, the life of pleasure, the other the denial of worldly enjoyments—is the middle path, which alone is worthy of attainment.

**Jainism**—The Jains believe in the *triratna* (three gems)—right faith, right knowledge and right conduct, which leads to the path of *moksha* (liberation). According to their belief the world has had no beginning and will have no creator is necessary to explain the nature of the cosmos. After completely annihilating the karmic forces and destroying all the shackles of worldly involvement, the soul exists in its supreme purity, endowed with the qualities of infinite perfection, infinite knowledge, infinite bliss and infinite power. The pure soul is called *Jina* and serves as the

ideal to be aimed at by those desiring to escape from the cycle of birth and death. The keynote of the ethical code of Jainism is the most uncompromising ahimsa (non-injury) to all living beings. They worship the images of their *tirthankaras* in their temples.

### Festivals and Fairs

**Hindu**—In the district, as elsewhere, the series of Hindu festivals commences with Rama Navami which falls on the ninth day of the bright half of Chaitra (March-April). This festival celebrates the birth anniversary of Rama. Many people fast on this day and the temples of Rama are specially illuminated and visited by devotees.

The 10th day of the latter half of Jyaishta (May-June) is called the Ganga or Jeth Dasahra, when the Hindus of the district bathe in rivers particularly Ganga and give alms to Gangaputras (those Brahmanas who live on the offerings made to the river), with the belief to wash away their sins.

Nag Panchami, which falls on the 5th day of the bright half of Sravana (July-August), is celebrated to propitiate Naga (the serpent god). As looking at a snake on this particular day is considered to be auspicious, replicas of snakes are made of flour on wooden planks or with cowdung on walls and are worshipped by the family. Live snakes are also brought to the homes by snake charmers for this purpose who are given alms and milk for feeding them.

Raksha-bandhan falls on the 15th day of the bright half of the same month, *rakhis* (twists of silk or cotton thread symbolising protection) are tied by sisters round the right wrists of brothers and by Brahmana priests round the wrists of their patrons to invoke protection from evil during the coming year.

Janmastami is observed on the 8th day of the dark half of the month of Bhadrapada (August-September) to celebrate the birth of Krishna. Fasts kept during the day are broken at midnight, which is supposed to be the hour of his birth. The temples and small shrines specially set up for the occasion are decorated and are thronged with people who sing devotional songs in praise of this deity and who gather at these shrines to have a glimpse (*jhanki*) of the representation of the infant god installed in a cradle. The dark half of the month of Asvina (September-October) is dedicated to the performance of the ceremonial of *shraddha* (repose of the dead) when dead ancestors are offered oblations and propitiated. The last day (Amavasya or the dark night of the period) is known as *pitra visarjan*, the main occasion of this period when the manes (*pitri*) are propitiated and are bade farewell to. During this whole period festivities of any sort are prohibited. The ceremonies connected with these observances are followed by all devout Hindus of the district.

The first nine days of the bright half of Asvina are known as Navratri and are devoted to the worship of the goddess Durga. The temples of this deity are specially decorated on this occasion and are visited by crowds of people who perform rituals in the temples, visiting one on each day as they do during the Navratri of Chaitra. The 10th day is Dasahra or Vijaya Dashmi, which is celebrated to commemorate the victory of Rama over Ravana (or of good over evil). Ramlila celebrations are held in various parts of the towns and all over the district.

Dipavali is the festival of lights which falls on the last day of the dark half of Kartika (October-November) but the festivities begin two days earlier, starting with Dhanteras (the 13th day of the month) when metal utensils are purchased as a token of prosperity. The next, the 14th day, is Narak Chaturdasi (or Chhoti-Divali) when only a few oil lamps (*diyas*) are lit as a prelude to the main festival. On the main day every Hindu house is illuminated generally with small earthen oil lamps and the goddess Lakshmi is worshipped. The next day is celebrated as Annakut (or Govardhan Puja) in memory of Krishna's protection of the cows. The following day is known as Yamaduttiya or Bhaiyyaduj when sisters put a  *roli*  mark or  *tika*  on the foreheads of their brothers.

Gangasnan (or Kartiki Purnima) is a big bathing festival which is held on the full moon day of Kartika. Hindus believe that taking a bath in the Ganga on this particular day washes away their sins and on this day fairs are held at different places in the district.

Sakat Chauth falls on the 4th day of dark half of Magha (January-February) when, in certain Hindu families, figures are made of goat's out of  *till* , the mothers keeping a fast during the day.

Makar Sankranti coincides with the transit of the sun from Dhanu to Makara and falls on the 11th day of the dark fortnight of Magha and is celebrated as a bathing festival.

Basant Panchmi, which falls on the 5th day of the second fortnight of Magha, is devoted to the worship of Sarasvati, the goddess of learning and music.

Sivaratri is celebrated in honour of Siva's wedding and falls on the 13th day of the dark half of Phalgun (February-March). A fast is observed during the day and vigil kept at night when the Siva linga is worshipped. The temples of Siva are especially decorated, devotional songs are sung and puja is performed.

Holi is one of the most important festivals and falls on the last day of Phalgun, when people indulge in all sorts of merriment. Bonfires are lighted on cross-roads at a fixed time to symbolise the destruction of the forces of evil. Cow-dung cakes are burnt in the Holi fire and ears of barley and wheat are roasted in it. Soon

after the bonfires are lit, people embrace their relatives, friends and acquaintances. Till midday on the following day there is great rejoicing and the festival turns into a carnival of colour when people throw coloured water and coloured powder (*abir* and *gulal*) on each other, the jubulations sometimes running riot. The most interesting part of the festival is the spirit of comradeship and friendliness that is observed and when Holi gatherings are arranged for people to meet and enjoy themselves.

**Islamic**—The Islamic festivals start with Muharram, the first month of the Muslim calendar. The first ten days commemorate the tragedy of Karbala which witnessed the martyrdom of Imam Husain, the grandson of the prophet Muhammad and his companions and has a especial significance for the Shias of the district who observe mourning during this period. Ashra, the 10th day of the month, is the most important, being the anniversary of the day when Imam Husain was killed. *Tazias* are taken out in procession for burial at Karbalas Chelhum, which falls on the 20th day of Safar or the 40th day after Ashra, usually marks the end of the period of mourning.

On the 12th of the month of Rabi-al-awwal falls Barawafat which marks the birthday of the prophet Muhammad, when alms are distributed and discourses on his life and messages are held.

The festival of Sab-e-Barat is celebrated in the district (as elsewhere) on the night of the 15th day of Shaban. Muslims offer sweets in the name of their deceased kin and visit their graves where they offer prayers and scatter flowers. Shias associate this night with the birth of the 12th and last Imam and express their joy by the display of fireworks and other types of festivities.

Ramadan is the month of fasting and the most important month in the Muslim year. All devout or practising Muslims fast from dawn to dusk during this month. Islam enjoins on its followers that this time be spent in meditation and prayer. The month closes with the visibility of the new moon. The festival of Id-ul-Fitar is celebrated on the next day, Shawal the 1st, by offering *namaz* (prayers) in *idgahs* and mosques where thanks-giving prayers are offered collectively.

Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid) is celebrated on 10th day of the month of Zilhij, to commemorate the occasion when the prophet Ibrahim resolved to give up his son Ismail as an offering to God at God's bidding, the highest sacrifice possible but which was not permitted by God in the end.

The important Islamic fairs held in the district are the *urs* celebrations of some important *pirs* (muslim saints) who flourished here at one time or another.



**Sikh**—The important festivals of the Sikhs are the birthdays of Guru Nanak and Guru Govind Singh, when processing are taken out, congregational prayers are held in *gurdwaras* and extracts from the *Granth* are recited. The other Sikh festivals are Baisakhi and Lohri. Local fairs are held at *gurdwaras* on these occasions.

**Christian**—The festivals of the Christians are Christmas, falls on December 25th and marks the birthday of Jesus Christ, Good Friday which commemorates his crucifixion and Easter, which is observed in memory of his resurrection.

**Jain**—Jain festivals celebrate the birth and the nirvana anniversaries of the last *tirthankara* Mahavira, the former on the 13th day of the bright half of Chaitra and the latter on Deepavali day. The Paryushan or the Dashalakshana-parva during the last days of Kartika, Phalguna and Asarha, are the periodical holy days when devotees observe fasts and perform worship in Jain temples.

**Buddhist**—The principal Buddhist festival is Buddha Purnima which is celebrated on the last day of Vaisakha and marks the birthday of the Buddha as well as the attainment of nirvana by him.

#### NEW RELIGIOUS TRENDS

The Arya Samaj is a protestant and reformist movement within the Hindu religion. It was founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875. The sect has made considerable progress in the district and there are many here who subscribe to its tenets. The Arya Samaj philosophy is monotheistic and professes to be a reversion to the original tenets of Hinduism. The objective of the Arya Samaj is to reform and remove the perversions and distortions existing in the Hindu religion. It seeks to establish a national religion free from obsolete and rigid rituals and customs. It has also incorporated within itself certain forms and practices to which the better-educated Hindus can subscribe without misgivings. The Arya Samaj condemns idolatry, *shraddha* and early marriage and is opposed to the prevalent, rigid caste system and it advocates a higher status for women in life than hitherto accorded to them by traditional Hindu society.

**Radha Soami**—There are in the district some followers of the Radha Soami sect which is an off-shoot of the Bhakti cult of Hinduism but is appreciably different from that religion. It is open to people belonging to any caste, religion or walk of life. The *satsangis* (followers of the order) believe that the true name of the Supreme Being is Radha Soami, that the universe has three divisions—the spiritual, the spiritual-material and the material-spiritual and that the four essentials of religion are *satguru* (the true teacher) *sat shabad* (the true word) *sat sang* (the true order or association) and *sat anurag* (true love).

## SOCIAL LIFE

**Property and Inheritance**

Among the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists the succession to and inheritance of property other than agricultural holdings is governed by the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which confers equal rights on sons and daughters in paternal property. But such property can also be distributed through wills or gifts which are often made in favour of sons who generally live with their parents and look after the property. The transfer through gifts is not common, as it involves much expenditure (court fees, etc.) and legal complications. Devolution of agricultural property follows the provisions of the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, which is applicable to every one. In respect of other civil property, the Muslims are governed by their personal law of succession and inheritance and the Christians by the Indian Succession Act of 1925.

**Joint Family**

The institution of the joint family and the coparcenary system of inheritance are still in existence but they are disintegrating under the impact of economic and social changes. The family structure both in towns and villages is now losing its solidarity and a common purse, common kitchen and common property in land are gradually ceasing to be characteristic features of joint family life, mainly because of the impact of modern ideas and the exigencies of employment and public service. The younger generation is individualistic in outlook and sons and even daughters tend to seek a division of the family inheritance. The lure of the towns and the expectation of finding better employment there encourage the flow of the rural population to the urban areas which tends to split up the village home. But the prevailing family pattern in the district is still patriarchal and women are mostly dependent on their menfolk for maintenance and protection, only a few earning their own living and being economically independent.

**Marriage and Morals**

In 1971 the distribution of the district population according to marital status was as follows :

Age Group	Total Population			Never Married		Married		Widowed		Divorced or Separated		Unspecified	
	Person	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-9	4,59,573	2,33,322	26,246	2,33,327	2,26,246	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14	1,91,617	1,02,904	88,713	92,419	69,464	10,475	19,249	10	—	—	—	—	—
15-19	1,37,568	71,943	65,625	40,123	11,313	31,840	54,142	125	135	—	25	35	10
20-24	1,25,622	61,939	63,683	14,635	800	46,470	62,267	719	596	90	20	25	—
25-29	1,15,918	52,215	63,703	5,164	275	46,051	62,694	940	714	60	20	—	—
30-34	1,02,621	46,613	56,008	3,231	50	41,832	54,162	1,425	1,736	125	60	—	—
35-39	87,105	42,843	44,262	2,406	60	38,692	41,926	1,645	2,036	100	40	—	—
40-44	81,717	40,644	41,073	1,886	130	36,102	36,590	2,606	4,353	50	—	—	—
45-49	61,412	32,137	29,275	1,231	30	27,941	25,312	2,885	3,863	80	50	—	—
50-54	71,470	37,791	33,679	1,708	45	31,272	24,257	4,741	9,347	50	30	20	—
55-59	38,974	21,514	17,460	864	40	17,386	13,047	3,244	4,373	20	—	—	—
60-64	52,086	27,350	24,536	1,551	35	20,192	11,363	5,737	13,138	70	—	—	—
65-69	21,543	11,474	10,069	470	—	8,338	4,780	2,656	5,289	10	—	—	—
70	41,701	21,522	29,179	780	—	12,469	4,910	8,273	15,259	10	—	—	—
ANS	8	5	3	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15,88,935	8,04,421	7,84,514	3,99,800	3,08,510	3,68,860	4,14,700	35,006	61,039	655	755	100	10

**Of Hindus—** Among the Hindus, marriage is considered to be a sacrament and is governed by the *Dharma-shastras* and to some extent by custom and tradition, though variations from caste to caste or even from family to family within a caste may occur in the performance of various ceremonies though certain ceremonies like *bhanvar* or *saptpadi* (literally seven steps) and *kanyadan* (giving away the bride) are essential and common. Intercaste marriages are rare but now intersubcaste marriages are to be met with. After the enforcement of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, certain restrictions, like the prohibition of marriage between persons of the same *gotra* have been removed. This Act makes polygamy illegal and invalidates marriages between *sapindas* (agnates or cognates within seven generations on the paternal and five generations on the maternal side) and also fixes the minimum marital age at 18 years for men and 15 years for girls.

There are a host of ceremonies which precede the actual marriage and which differ from caste to caste. Generally marriages are arranged by the parents and even in cases where the couple concerned takes the initiative, the approval of the elders is considered to be desirable. First the bride's family approaches the groom's party either directly or through an intermediary. Once the required particulars are found to be satisfactory by both parties, negotiations start. The couple's horoscopes are compared by the family priests and if these tally, the marriage is settled. After this, the first ceremony is that of *barrichha* (literally choosing the bridegroom) or the engagement, which is performed by the bride's people; the next is that of the *tilak* or *phaldan* (betrothal) which takes place at the bridegroom's house but without the presence of the bride when the *lagan* (date of marriage) which has to be approved by the family priest, is communicated by the bride's people to the bridegroom's. On the appointed day the *barat* (marriage party) reaches the bride's house and the ceremony of *dvarpuja* (reception of the bridegroom at the door of the bride's house) is performed, followed by *kanyadan* (giving away of the bride) and *bhanvar* (going round the sacred fire seven times) which completes the marriage ceremony. Some further ceremonies such as the *bhaat*, *kalewa* or *barhar* take place the next day. Finally the ceremony of *vida* (departure) takes place when the *borat* returns with the bride to the bridegroom's house.

Among Hindus, divorce or separation, though permitted by law, is not considered desirable or good. So the married partners continue to live together and do not break up their marriage.

The custom of the taking and giving of a dowry has been declared to be illegal under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Among the members of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes also marriage is considered to be a religious rite. In addition to the recognised form of marriage, the system of *dola* is also in vogue among these groups. In this form the bride is taken to the bridegroom's house where the marriage rites are gone through. Certain castes permit the marriage of widows and such types of marriages, which are performed with maimed rites, are known as *dharewa*, *karao*

and *sagai*. Some castes permit concubinage as well which is considered legal in so far as the children of such a union are entitled to enjoy the rights and privileges of the caste concerned and, in some cases, also have a restricted right of inheritance.

**Of Muslims—**Among Muslims marriage is a civil contract and is undertaken to procreate and legalise children. Any person who has a sound mind and has attained the age of puberty may enter into such a contract. The marriage is usually negotiated and settled by the parents of the man and the woman. The *mangni* (asking for the bride) and the settlement of the marriage takes place first. An important ingredient in a marital contract is the *mehr* (dower) which the bridegroom stipulates to pay the bride at the time of the marriage or later if the husband divorces the wife. The *nikah* or *aqad* (marriage proper), which is the actual marriage ceremony, is performed at the bride's house by the qazi, after obtaining the consent of both the contracting parties through two agents after which he reads the *khutba* and the marriage ceremony is considered to have been completed. The bridegroom is introduced to the relations of the bride and the *rukhsat* (leave taking) takes place. There are certain restrictions on marriage alliances taking place between certain persons such as brother and sister, half-brother and half-sister, uncle and niece etc. Islam permits polygamy to the extent of four wives at a time but government rules do not permit a Muslim in government service to have more than one wife at a time.

**Of Christians—**The marriage customs of the adherents of different denominations in the district as elsewhere usually follow the same general pattern. The marriage may be arranged by the contracting parties or by their relatives or friends. After the engagement, the banns are published three times (once every week) by the priest of the church where the marriage is to be solemnised, to give an opportunity for raising objections, if any. The marriage is performed in church by the priest. The essential items of the ceremony are the exchange of vows between the bride and the bridegroom, the placing of a ring by the groom on the ring finger of the bride's left hand, the couple sometimes exchanging rings, the pronouncement by the priest that the couple has been joined in holy matrimony and the signing of the marriage register by the couple and their witnesses.

**Of Sikhs—**The important ceremonies in a Sikh marriage are the recitation of extracts from the *Granth* round which the couple goes several times. The *barat* (marriage party) goes to the bride's house as in a Hindu marriage. Offerings are made at the *gurdwara* by both parties when a marriage takes place.

**Dowry—**For the eradication of the evil of the dowry system, there is the dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, which prohibits the giving and taking of dowry but the evil still persists in almost all sections of society.

**Civil Marriage**—The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for the performance and registration of marriages by a marriage officer appointed by government for the district. Religion or caste does not constitute any restrictions on a civil marriage and no formal rites or ceremonies are required to be undertaken. There has been no case of such a marriage in the district.

**Widow Marriage**—Despite the enabling provisions of the Hindu Widows Marriage Act, 1956, the marriage of Hindu widows, particularly among the so-called high castes, has not become popular. Some of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes adhere to the old custom of allowing widows to marry and generally the younger brother of the deceased. In the Muslim and Christian communities, the widow can marry without any hindrance of custom or religious practice.

**Divorce**—The dissolution of marriage by law or by custom was not permissible among the Hindus. Among the Scheduled Castes and some of the Other Backward Classes divorce was permissible and obtaining the sanction of the panchayat. But after the enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the facility of divorce and dissolution of marriage has become available under certain special circumstances, to all sections of Hindu society. The personal law of Muslims allows a husband to divorce his wife on making payment of the *mehr* (dower) but the Dissolution of Marriages Act, 1939, also empowers the wife to seek a divorce. Divorce among Christians is governed by the Indian Divorce Act, 1869.

**Prostitution and Traffic in Women**—Organised prostitution centres or brothels no longer exist in the district, which is perhaps the result of the enforcement of the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956. Yet this social evil has not been completely wiped out. No prosecutions or convictions were made in the district under the Act between 1973 and 1975, many prostitutes and dancing girls playing their trade in towns, though the practice is gradually falling into desuetude.

**Gambling**—The Public Gambling Act, 1867, as amended from time to time, makes gambling in public an offence punishable under the law. People usually gamble during Dasahra and Deepavali by playing cards. But gambling by means of *dara* and *satta* has also come into vogue.

### Home Life

In 1971, there were 396 houseless persons, of whom 208 were males and 188 females and of the total, 379 were residing in the rural areas and 17 in the urban. The tahsilwise break up of such population was 166 in Rasra, 163 in Bansdih and 67 in Ballia tahsil. The institutional population then numbered 1,669 persons (1,136 males and 533 females) the number of households being 52. Of these, 962 were residing in the rural and 707 in the urban areas. Their tahsilwise distribution was 297 in Rasra, 302 in Bansdih and 1,070 in Ballia tahsil. There were 1,99,051 occupied (residential) houses in the district, of which 1,89,994 were in the rural and 9,057 in the urban areas.

The district then had 2,34,641 householders (group of persons ordinarily living together and having a common kitchen) of whom 2,22,673 were in the rural and 11,968 in the urban areas. The average size of a household in the district was about 7 persons and in the rural and urban areas it was 7 and 6 persons respectively. Families living in one-room tenements predominated, accounted for 19.1 per cent, 24.8 lived in two-room, 19.7 in three-room, 12.5 in four-room and 23.9 in five-room tenements. The majority of persons, (97.9 per cent) lived in their own houses and 2.1 in rented houses. In the rural areas 99.37 per cent resided in their own homes and 0.63 in rented ones. In the urban areas, 64.56 per cent lived in their own and 35.44 per cent in rented houses.

The following statement gives the number and classification of households according to size and tenure status :

HOUSEHOLDS WITH NUMBER OF PERSONS								
Tenure status	No. of census house-holds	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six and more	Un-specified status
<b>District</b>								
Owned	2,25,840	8,290	12,535	16,000	23,450	29,220	1,36,150	195
Rented	4,735	970	690	630	565	520	1,325	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,30,575</b>	<b>9,260</b>	<b>13,225</b>	<b>16,630</b>	<b>24,015</b>	<b>29,740</b>	<b>1,37,475</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Rural</b>								
Owned	2,17,815	7,840	12,000	15,380	22,620	28,230	1,31,550	175
Rented	1,595	545	195	185	140	175	330	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,19,410</b>	<b>8,385</b>	<b>12,195</b>	<b>15,565</b>	<b>22,760</b>	<b>28,425</b>	<b>1,31,880</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Urban</b>								
Owned	8,025	450	535	620	830	970	4,600	20
Rented	3,140	425	495	455	425	345	995	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,165</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>5,595</b>	<b>30</b>

**Houses in Towns**—the buildings in the crowded parts of the town do not follow any set architectural pattern and are in most cases single storeyed. There are a number of double-storeyed buildings as well. Kutcha houses are usually occupied by the poorer section of the population. On the whole houses do not have any architectural decoration worth the name except some *jali* work, projecting windows and overhanging eaves in the front sections. Big houses, generally occupied by rich persons, have a drawing-room, dining-room, bed-room, kitchen, storeroom, bathroom and lavatories, etc. The open space in the middle of the house (the *angan*) and a lavatory are common features of nearly every house. In some towns public latrines have also been constructed for the benefit of those who do not have such a convenience in their houses.

**Houses in Villages**—the dwellings in rural areas are generally built of mud or unbaked brick. They are usually of one storey, although many double-storeyed brick houses have also come up. Kutcha houses are about three or four metres in height are roofed by wooden beams and covered with planks, thatching grass or tiles. Usually there is an open courtyard in the middle of the house and *dalans* (verandas) are the characteristic features of houses in the rural areas but a separate kitchen is rare. Lavatories do not exist in such houses and the fields and outdoors are used for the purpose. Some improvements have been effected in many villages such as the construction of ventilators, better drainage, improved cattle sheds, etc., especially where people have taken interest in community development schemes. In *khadir* areas, where floods are common, the houses are mainly made of thatching grass shaped into a hut, surrounded by spacious *gheras* made of the same material.

**Furniture and Decoration**—In the rural areas of the district and where people who are not well off live, a few string cots, *morhas* (reed chairs) wooden chairs, etc., have to suffice. Those who are better off have a few more articles of furniture such as a *takhat* (wooden divan) a few chairs and stools, a table or two, etc.

In the towns the items and quality of the furniture vary with the householder's monetary resources. In some cases each room has its own furniture such as a drawing-room suite, a dining table, other tables, beds, etc. People who dine in the kitchen use either an *asani* or *patti* to sit on and place the vessels on the floor or on smalls law *pattis*. Those who can afford it have furnishings (curtains, carpets, etc.) and other accessories which suit their purse and taste.

The influence of western ways of living is noticeable among the educated people of the urban areas who mark use of crockery, cutlery, etc.

On festive occasions like Deepawali, Dasahra Id and Christmas, houses are decorated and illuminated. Those who cannot afford to buy paintings for the walls put up pictorial calendars and pictures.



**Dress**—Urban influence is much in evidence in the changed life style of the rural masses, particularly in matters of dress. Traditional costumes are fast disappearing yielding place to clothes of modern types made of better varieties of cloth, sometimes even of synthetic fabrics. A standardisation has taken place in matters of dress, men usually wearing trousers, shirts and coats. Many Muslims wear a *sherwani* and *pyjama* on formal occasions.

The sari-blouse-petticoat ensemble is the most popular with women though young college students also wear slacks and shirts and tunics. The use of the turban or other formal head gear has almost disappeared and now men prefer to go bareheaded. Shoes or *chappals* form an essential item of dress and very few people go barefoot.

**Jewellery**—Men generally do not wear jewellery except at times for a gold or silver finger ring and a gold chain for the neck. Women adorn their wrists with *churis* (bangles) made of glass, silver or gold and wear one ring or more of silver or gold, a necklace, chain, nose-ring or nose-stud, ear rings, *payals*, toe-rings (*bichua*) only for married woman) chain or band for the waist and the like. The poor people have to be content with silver jewellery. The jewellery of the rich is made of gold and is often studded with precious stones, etc. The use of old-fashioned, heavy jewellery is on the decline, due to the high price of gold and silver, changing fashions and the fear of theft.

**Food**—The Hindus are generally vegetarian by habit and preference. The diet of the people consists of chapaties (prepared from kneaded wheat or cornflour) eaten with *dal* and cooked vegetables. The pulses consumed here are generally *urd*, *arhar*, *moong*, *chana*, *masur*, *matti* and *kurti*. Most of the people have to be content with two meals a day. Tea has become a favourite beverage even with the village folk. Rice is eaten as a rule, the poorer people usually eating *satua* made of either barley, gram or pea instead of having a full meal at midday. Parched gram, pea or wheat is another stand by of the ordinary people which is usually eaten with *rab* (molasses) or jaggery. Among edible fats, ghee, *vanaspati*, mustard oil, *tisi* oil and *barray* oil are commonly used. The consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits is increasing. Food mixed with condiments and spices, particularly chillies, is favoured as are relishes like *chutney baris*, *mangauris*, etc; which are often also used as substitutes for vegetables. Jack-fruit is greatly liked by the people of the district and when ripe is eaten with curd.

#### COMMUNAL LIFE

Although Ballia is not a pilgrim centre, its great antiquity and its being at the confluence of the Ganga with the Saryu, gives it a peculiar sanctity in the eyes of Hindus which has made it a scene of great assemblages during the fairs held annually in the district. These fairs are religious in origin and in many

instances the celebration of some festival, whether Hindu or Muslims, is the occasion of such assemblages. The fair at Dadri other attracts unusually big crowds. Another fair in Ballia is held in the memory of the rishi Bhṛigu (believed to be, a son or Brahma) who is said to have dwelt here. Forty other fairs, big and small, are held in the district. Some details regarding the fairs of the district are given in Statement III at the end of the chapter.

**Festivities and Dances**—The district possesses a rich variety of folk literature and stories. "Grannies' tales" and sacred stories abound as do local proverbs. Interesting old stories and tales are related in the *chaupal* during winter, when people warm themselves sitting around the *kaura* (bonfire). Other recreational activities include performances by *natak* or *nautanki*, *māṇḍlīs*, *bhajan māṇḍalīs*, recitations of the *Ramayana* and the *Bhagvata*, gatherings where poetry is recited, exhibitions and cultural programmes organized by various development departments and the showing of documentaries and picture reels under governmental and other auspices. The village folk have their own village and folk dances of which the more common are the *kaharva*, and the dance of the Kahars and *phaags*, *kajli*, *baramas*, *sorthi* and *jhoola* are the typical ministerials) sing hymns like *Gopichand Bhārthari* and *Narsingh* songs sung in different seasons by the rural folk. *Jogis* (itinerant *Bhagat* and they render in song incidents from the poignant lives of heroes such as *Bihula Bishdhari*, *Lorki* and *Parmaldev*. *Bhānds* usually sing (vulgar) songs when there is a family gathering to celebrate a birth or marriage.

The indigenous games played in the rural areas are *kabaddi*, *chikka*, *kakuapatta*, *pandubbi*, *gulli danda* and kite flying. Games like volley-ball and foot-ball have also found their way to the villages of the district. In fairs and festivals, the common rural entertainments are *dangals*, *kushtis* and itinerant shows of monkey and bear dances and the singing of folk songs in groups, etc., are other types of recreations and entertainments. In Ballia there are some officers' clubs and three picture halls and Rasra has two cinema halls, the total seating capacity being 3,000.

The district has a number of libraries and reading-rooms. The games commonly played in the urban areas are hockey, cricket, basket-ball, foot-ball, volley-ball, badminton, table-tennis and tennis, etc. Annual sports and games meets are organised in schools and colleges and also at the district level.

#### IMPACT OF ZAMINDARI ABOLITION ON SOCIAL LIFE

The U. P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 (Act I of 1951) which came into operation in the district in 1952, brought, about many significant changes in the social and economic life of the peasants. The rural elite, which consisted mainly of zamindars who had been exploiting the actual tillers of the land for centuries, were replaced by farmers owning their own land and

adopting modern method of agriculture and cultivation, etc. Not only has the *per capita* availability of farm produce increased but the general prosperity of the people has improved manifesting itself in the utilisation of better food, dress, dwellings, etc. New educational institutions are coming up periodically through voluntary effort to widen the frontiers of education, particularly for those living in the rural areas.

### New Trends

The pattern in dress, jewellery, ornaments, social customs, food and the various habits of the people, their mode of living, religious beliefs and practices, etc., have undergone substantial changes over the years. The impact of the cinema is far reaching but not always healthy. With the diversification of occupations and the spread of education, social barriers are gradually breaking down and the rigidity and the rigours of the caste system are gradually disappearing. As a result, cases of intercaste and inter-provincial marriages have increased and, though untouchability still persists particularly in the rural areas, the legislation for the abolition of untouchability is making some headway. The extension of general and technical education following on schemes undertaken under the Five-year Plans has opened up new vistas of employment and opportunities for the entry of women into various professions and occupations have arisen. By and large, the people have become politically conscious and take a keen interest in the general elections whether of the panchayats, the State legislatures or of parliament. With the increase in agricultural production as also in agricultural prices, the purchasing power of agriculturists has increased considerably with the result that they spend much more on social occasions. With the introduction of the panchayati raj system, the farmers of the district have acquired political power as voters both at the State and the district levels and have thus become a force to be reckoned with.

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## STATEMENT II

## Language

Reference Page No. 46

Language	No. of persons
Hindi	9,99,291
Bhojpuri	5,44,701
Urdu	44,605
Bengali	120
Punjabi	84
Gorkhali/Nepali	64
Marathi	16
Marwari	12
Braj-bhasha	11
Malyalam	7
Gurmukhi	6
Assamese	4
Arabic	3
Telegu	3
Magahi/Magadhi	3
Oriya	1
Santhali	1
French	1
German	1
Total	15,88,935

## STATEMENT III

## Fairs

Reference Page No. 63

Village/town	Name	Date	Attendance Approximate
1	2	3	4

## TAHSIL RASRA

Unchera	Rama Navami	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	4,000
Sonadih	Rama Navami	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	25,000
Kusadih	Rama Navami	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	2,000
Rasra	Kali Puja	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	6,000
Ratanpura	Vikas Mela	Chaitra	3,000
Anwayan	Pir Dhanla	Sravana, <i>krishna</i> 1	2,000
Misrauli	Dambar Baba	Sravana, <i>krishna</i> 1	2,000
Nagpura	Dasahra	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	1,000
Rasra N.A.	Dasahra	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	70,000
Jam	Dasahra	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	1,000
Tikadeori	Dasahra	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	7,000
Barebhoj	Dasahra	Asvina, <i>sukla</i> 10	10,000
Turtipar	Kartika Ashnan	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	3,000
Bilthra	Kartika Ashnan	Kartika, <i>sukla</i> 15	2,000

## TAHSIL BANSDIH

Pakari	Rama Navami	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	1,000
Nawwabara Maniar	Gharbaran Baba-ka-Mela	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	2,000
	Nauka Baba	Chaitra, <i>sukla</i> 9	3,000
Sikandarapur	Jalpa Kalpa Devi	Vaisakha, <i>sukla</i> 15	4,000
Maniar	Aktijlya	Vaisakha, <i>sukla</i> 3	1,000
Pacheo	Panch Devi	Vaisakha, <i>sukla</i> 9	25,000
Reoti	Bajrang Bali-ka-Mela	Vaisakha, <i>sukla</i> 15	4,000

1	2	3	4
Siriya	Siriya-ka-Mela	Jyaistha, sukla 10	1,500
Sultanpur	Siva Kumari Devi	Asvina, sukla 10	2,000
Sukhpura	Bhagvati Devi	Asvina, sukla 10	5,000
Sahatwar	Durga Puja	Asvina, sukla 9	25,000
Asega	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	6,000
Belsari	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	1,000
Chhitauni	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	15,000
Bansdih	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	4,000
Pur	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	1,000
Majhwalia	Dargah Maula	Phalguna, krishna 13	4,000
Sheikhapura	Dargah Maula	Phalguna, krishna 13	1,000

## TAHSIL BALLIA

Shankarpur	Rama Navami	Chaitra, sukla 9	10,000
Kapuri Narayanpur	Kauleshwari Bha- wani	Chaitra, sukla 9	2,000
Ugiarghat	Satuwan	Vaisakha, krishna 30	4,000
Haldi	Cattle fair	Jyaistha, sukla 10	1,000
Ujiarghat	Ganga Dasahra	Jyaistha, sukla 10	4,500
Ballia M.B.	Dasahra	Asvina, sukla 10	4,000
Karmanpur	Sureshwar Nath Mahadeo	Asvina	5,000
Garwar	Taugate Baba	Kartika	1,500
Persia	Pauch Koshi	Phalguna, krishna 13	1,000
Ballia M.B.	Dadri	Kartika, sukla 15	4,00,000
Kotwa	Sudhist fair	Agrahayana, sukla 5	17,000
Ugiarghat	Makar Sankranti	January 14	5,000
Ujiarghat	Amavasya fair	Magha, krishna 30	4,000
Haldi	Cattle fair	Magha	1,000
Jai Prakash Nagar	Cattle fair	Magha	10,000
Deokali	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	2,000
Phuiwaria	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	
Karoo	Sivratri	Phalguna, krishna 13	10,000

# CHAPTER IV

## AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

### LAND RECLAMATION AND UTILISATION

The district had a geographical area of 3,14,682 ha. in 1971 of which 2,33,673 ha. were utilised for agricultural purposes. The statement below compares the figures of land utilisation in the district during 1901 with those in 1970-71 :

Type of area for Utilisation	1901		1970-71	
	Acres	Hectares	Acres	Hectares
Total geographical area	7,96,408	3,22,295	7,77,595	3,14,682
Area under forest	—	—	—	—
Uncultivated area	1,25,401	50,748	1,41,786	57,379
Other uncultivated area	96,041	38,866	28,508	11,537
Current fallow	31,372	12,695	15,738	6,369
Total cultivated area	6,96,142	2,81,718	7,59,385	3,07,314
Net cultivated area	5,43,594	2,19,984	5,77,423	2,33,673
Area cropped more than once	1,52,548	61,733	1,81,970	73,641

### Cultivated Area

No statistics of cultivation are available for the district before 1886. The last revision of records, which covered a period of some four years, was completed in 1885 but the figures pertained only to a portion of the area covered by the present district which excluded the parganas of Sikandarpur, Bhadaon and Garha. The last was not added to Ballia till 1892. But as the records are extant separately, they show the progress achieved during a period of at least 20 years. From 1886 to 1895, the average area under the plough was 534 thousand acres (216 thousand ha.) or 67 per cent of the total area of the district. For the first half of this decade the figure was constant but in the year 1890 the cultivation dropped to a marked extent, the average for the second five years being 525 thousand acres (212 thousand ha.). The decrease was common to all tahsils but was more noticeable in Rasra. From 1896 to 1900 the proportion remained low, averaging 521 thousand acres (211 thousand ha.). The climax was reached in 1897 when only 497 thousand acres (201 thousand ha.) were under cultivation. But in the year 1900 the recovery was complete, the area 546 thousand acres (221 thousand ha.) or a little lower than the previous highest record of 549 thousand acres (222 thousand ha.) in 1888.



From 1901 to 1905 the average cultivated area increased to 543 thousand acres (220 thousand ha.) or 68.14 per cent of the total area of the district. The following statement indicates the extent of the cultivated area and its percentage as compared with the total area which obtained every ten years from 1931 to 1971 :

Year	Cultivated area		Percentage of total area
	Acres	Hectares	
1931	5,48,471	2,21,958	69.8
1941	5,57,068	2,25,437	71.5
1951	5,78,501	2,34,110	72.8
1961	5,46,705	2,21,243	68.7
1971	5,77,423	2,33,673	74.2

### Double-cropped Area

From 1886 to 1895 the area bearing two crops in the year averaged 115 thousand acres (47 thousand ha.) or 21.69 per cent of the net cropped area. During the next ten years the average rose to 145 thousand acres (59 thousand ha.) or 27.3 per cent. There was a constant increase throughout this period, the mean amount being 152 thousand acres (61 thousand ha.) during the five years ended 1906. The figures given in the following statement are those of the double-cropped area in the district in the decades from 1931 to 1971

Year	Double-cropped area (in thousands)		Percentage of net cultivated area
	Acres	Hectares	
1931	139	56	25.3
1941	158	64	28.3
1951	185	75	32.0
1961	162	66	29.6
1971	181	73	23.4

### Culturable Area

In 1901, the culturable area, excluding the current fallows, amounted to 96,041 acres (38,866 ha.) or about 12.1 per cent of the total area of the district. In 1911, the area registered an increase of 378 acres (153 ha.) but in 1921 the increase was of 9,429 acres (3,816 ha.) the actual culturable area being 1,05,848 acres (42,835 ha.) or 13.2 per cent of the total area of the district. The following statement mentions the extent of the culturable area and its percentage in relation to the total area in each decade from 1931 to 1971 :

Year	Culturable area excluding current fallows		Percentage of total area
	Acres	Hectares	
1931	92,516	37,440	11.8
1941	80,233	32,469	10.2
1951	70,253	28,430	8.8
1961	57,627	23,321	7.2
1971	28,508	11,537	3.6

**Current Fallow**—In 1901 the current fallow land in the district was 31,372 acres (12,695 ha.). By 1911 this had increased to 39,093 acres (15,820 ha.) but dwindled to 24,185 acres (9,787 ha.) in 1931 and to 22,087 acres (8,938 ha.) in 1941 but went up to 25,324 acres (10,248 ha.) in 1951. In 1961 it again registered an increase being 30,330 acres (12,274 ha.). The total current fallow land in the district was 15,738 acres (6,369 ha.) in 1971.

#### LAND NOT AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION

The land not available for cultivation consists chiefly of sterile *usar* plains, sandy tracts broken by ravines along the banks of rivers and areas occupied by sites, roads, buildings, water and under non-agricultural uses. The extent of the total uncultivated land for each census year since 1931 is given in the statement that follow :

Classification of uncultivated land	Area in thousand acres/ha.				
	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971
Under water	55/22	52/21	50/20	51/21	—
Under buildings and roads	24/10	25/10	25/10	27/11	—
Under non-agricultural uses	41/16	44/18	45/18	46/18	—
Total	120/48	121/49	120/48	124/50	141/57

#### LAND RECLAMATION

No waste land has been reclaimed so far under the soil conservation scheme. Except for a few patches of *usar* and some submerged areas, the waste land is not a problem in the district. As no ravines are created on account of soil erosion, no special reclamation scheme has been launched in district. About 39,295 ha. of cultivable land is affected by soil erosion and 210 projects were taken in hand

up to 1974-75 during the Fourth and Fifth-Five-year Plans periods when 24,772 ha. of land were surveyed and 15,630 ha. were made cultivable.

### IRRIGATION

The district is well provided with means of irrigation. A large proportion of the land is low lying and consists of recent alluvium which does not require artificial irrigation. No irrigation is needed in the whole of pargana Doaba and extensive areas of the Ballia and Garha parganas along the Ganga, as they lie low. The figures of irrigation are available only from 1886 onwards. For the ten years ended 1895 the average irrigated area was 1,82,107 acres (73,291 ha.) or 35.68 per cent of the net cultivated area, the maximum being 1,97,981 acres (80,120 ha.) or 405 per cent in 1890-91 and the minimum 1,71,621 acres (69,452 ha.) or 34.6 per cent two years later. For the succeeding decade (1896 to 1905) the irrigated areas averaged 1,85,298 acres (74,987 ha.) or 34.73 per cent of the area cultivated, the increase in extent not having kept pace with the extension of cultivation. In 1905 the greatest extent in the irrigated area was in tahsil Rasra which was 1,04,381 acres (42,241 ha.). In Bansdih and Ballia, the irrigated area was 62,082 acres (24,717 ha.) and 30,746 acres (12,441 ha.) respectively. The following statement gives the extent of the total area irrigated in the district in some of the years between 1901 and 1971 :

Year	Irrigated area		Percentage of cultivated area
	Acres	Hectares	
1	2	3	4
1901	1,88,084	76,114	34.6
1911	1,88,544	76,301	35.2
1921	1,94,824	78,842	36.8
1931	1,82,223	73,743	33.2
1941	2,05,778	83,275	36.9
1951	2,08,444	84,354	36.0
1961	2,11,990	85,789	38.7
1971	2,62,092	1,06,065	45.4

### MEANS OF IRRIGATION

Canals—The Dohrighat canal system is the chief source of irrigation in the district. It has been taken out from the Ghaghra in the Azamgarh district near the town of Dohrighat. It provides irrigation to the Ballia and Azamgarh districts. The total length of this canal system in this district is about 280 km. and the area estimated to be irrigated by it is 39,776 ha. and during the Fourth Five-year Plan period (ended 1974) an area of 33,776 ha. was irrigated by it. The other canal system, the Suraha canal system, was constructed in the First Five-year plan period (1951-52, to

1955-56). Its source is the Suraha Tal in tahsil Bansdih. Its total length is 52 km. and the area it is expected to irrigate is 3,885 ha. To meet the increasing demand for water, the government started the work of constructing another canal under the Dohrighat Sahayak scheme in 1974, which will have a length of 50 km., 32 km. of which have already been constructed.

**Tube-wells**—Irrigation in the district is also done by tube-wells. During the Fourth Five-year Plan period, 153 tube-wells were constructed which irrigated an area of 1,18,975 ha. So far, in the Fifth Five-year Plan period, 40 tube-wells have been constructed which have irrigated an additional area of 43,746 ha. A scheme for the construction of hundred tube-wells is under way which will irrigate an area of 12,100 ha. In 1974-75 the area irrigated by the tube-wells of the district was 32,049 ha.

**Wells**—Wells can be dug in most parts of the district, the only obstacle encountered in their construction being the sandy nature of the subsoil in the low lying lands along the rivers. Unless made of masonry, the wells in these tracts fall in during the rains and in almost every case they have to be protected by ropes made of straw which are coiled round the sides in order to keep the wells working for a single season. The depth at which water is found varies with the height of the surface above sea-level which averages about 4.5 m. in the alluvial tracts and ranges from 4.5 to 12 m. in the uplands. The area irrigated by the wells was 1,51,039 acres (61,123 ha.) in 1906. In 1971 it was 30,577 ha. Wells are worked by several different methods, the most common being the *dhenkul* or lever method, the *charkhi* (*rahat* or Persian wheel) also being in use. The number of wells in 1974-75 was 1,438, which irrigated an area of 30,207 ha.

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**Tanks or Lakes**—As in all other eastern districts, in this district also there are a large number of lakes and artificial tanks for irrigation purposes. The hollows and ditches left in and near sites from which earth is removed for building purposes, get filled up with water and are also used for irrigation. Tanks are often made, the walls being kept in repair and weeding done annually. The water is generally raised from the tank to the field by means of the *dauri* a round, shallow basket made of wicker or bamboo matting. The total area irrigated by tanks was 24,662 acres (9,979 ha.) in 1906 and in 1971 it was 9,600 acres (3,885 ha.).

**Minor Irrigation Works**—The government has taken up a private irrigation works programme (classed as a minor irrigation works project) in the district. Commercial banks, co-operative institutions and quasi-governmental financial corporations also provide financial assistance for the cultivators for the construction of wells and the installing of pumping sets and Persian wheels. In 1976 there were 17,075 wells, 1,280 wells with Persian wheels, 678 pumping sets and 6,434 private tube-wells which had the capacity to irrigate 77,780 ha. of land.

## AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

### Soils

The land around the village sites, is which is rich in manure, is known as *goind* and outlying fields is *paliwar*. There are also other natural soils such as *matiyar* or clay, *bhur* or sand and *dumat* or loam, a wide term which includes other soils that do not come under the first two categories. The clay soils vary in character as much of the land so termed is very stiff and can only be used for the cultivation of rice during the rains though elsewhere it can be ploughed for a second crop in the following winter. The *bhur* ranges from a very light loam to soil filled with *kankar* or which is almost pure sand, excellent crops often being grown in the former; where it becomes more broken and sandy, it produces only the inferior staples such as *bajra* and *arhar* and in its worst state only *masoor*. The loam of the district is light, fertile soil, shading off into clay in the rice-growing tracts and near the rivers into sand. The soil can also be divided into *rabi* and rice land, the former being stabler and the latter more or less precarious. The rice land is classed as *dhan*, grows only *ekfasli*, late or early rice and depends more or less on the vagaries of the monsoon. It has been classed as *dhan* I, II and III according as it is fertile, secure or unsafe and precarious. *Dhan* I consists of *jarhan* lands with good soil and a sufficient water supply for the season. *Dhan* II consists of *ekfasli*, late rice lands with defective soil or an insufficient or excessive water supply and *ekfasli bhadain* rice lands. *Dhan* III consists of *ekfasli* early rice land lying in *usar* blocks of a very thirsty type and liable to be damaged if there are even short breaks in the monsoon.

The class of *rabi* land depends on the kind of soil, the distance from the homestead and the irrigation facilities available. The soil classed under *rabi* lands are *kachhciana*, *goind* I and II (wet and dry), *dumat* I, II and III, *bhur* I and II, *tarai* I and II and *kachchar* I and II. The vegetable plots which are heavily manured and skilfully and intensively cultivated and *pan* gardens are classed as *kachhciana*. Fairly manured *rabi* land and slopping fertile land falling below the standard of *goind* is demarcated as *dumat* I, which is well-irrigated and well-manured soil, while *dumat* II is comparatively inferior land where irrigated *rabi* crops are rarely grown. *Dumat* III consists of *usar* blocks including the poor, *ekfasli rabi* fields. *Tarai* lands are submerged areas in the beds of lakes and *nalas* or on their edges, which get flooded during the rains and grow *ekfasli rabi* without being irrigated. The fertile *kachchar* land with clay alluvial silt is *kachchar* I. The rest of the *kachchar* generally pure sand, is *kachchar* II. A heavy soil containing a good deal of clay is classed as *dumat matiar*, an average loam as *dumat dorasa* and sandy loam as *dumat baluhi*.

### Harvests

The three harvests of the district are *Rabi*, *Kharif* and *Zaid*. *Kharif* (the rainy season crops) is sown in June and July and harvested in September-October and *Rabi* (irrigated crops) is sown in October-November and harvested in February-March.

Of these two main harvests, the main Kharif crops of the district are rice, maize and mandua and those of Rabi are wheat, barley, gram, arhar and pea.

In 1906, taking the average figures of the five years from 1901 to 1906, the area sown for the Rabi was 3,48,336 acres and the Kharif and Zaid covered 3,44,570 acres and 3,260 acres respectively. The decennial figures of the area under various food and non-food crops in the district from 1931 to 1971 are given in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

### Principal Kharif Crops

**Rice**—Fore most among the Kharif crops is rice, which includes several varieties sown at different times which are called by different names. In 1906, the area under this crop was 98,814 acres or 28.7 per cent of the land cropped. The largest area was in tahsil Rasra and the least in tahsil Ballia. The earlier paddy is known as *jethi dhan* from the month of Jaistha (May-June) in which it is reaped and is properly speaking a Zaid crop sown in the month of Chaitra (March-April). *Boro dhan*, which is sown along the river beds, is also harvested in Jyaistha. The rice crop grown in Suraha Tal attains a height of about 6 m. Another early species is *kuari dhan*, which is sown with the first fall of monsoon rain and is cut in the month of Asvina (commonly known as Kuar). It ripens in two months and so finds great favour as a food crop. Late paddy, or *jarhan*, is the best both as regards quality and quantity. It is thickly sown in small plots at the beginning of the rains and when about 30 cm. high, is transplanted into fields which have been carefully prepared and is reaped in November. It is sown in the stiff clay tracts in which a second crop can seldom be raised. In many villages, it is grown in good land in preference to other crops. Kuar rice and other early varieties are preferred to *jarhan* by the poorer section of the people.

There has been an increase in the area under paddy since 1911 when it covered only 92,423 acres. In 1971 the area under it rose to 2,22,311 acres (89,966 ha.).

**Maize**—Maize is a very important staple in some parts of the district. It flourishes on the higher lands. The crop is generally sown in good soil in which there is a plentiful supply of manure. It has the great advantage of reaching maturity at an early stage, so it is less affected than other staples by a premature cessation of the rains. In 1971 it covered an area of 23,559 ha.

**Jowar and Bajra**—Next in importance among the Kharif staples are jowar and bajra, both of which rank high among the principal food-grains and also afford excellent fodder for cattle. They are nearly always grown in combination with arhar, which flourishes in all parts of the district and often is very dense and tall and its popularity may well be due to the fact that a leguminous

crops best alternates with a cereal. In 1971 jowar covered 1,634 ha. and *bajra* 5,213 ha.

**Other Crops**—The other main cereals grown in the district are *mandua*, *sawan* and pulses like *urd*, *moong* and *moth*. The areas covered by the first two in 1971 were 320 ha. and 9,809 ha. respectively and those under the last three 10 ha., 10 ha. and 2 ha. respectively.

### Principal Rabi Crops

**Barley**—Among the Rabi crops barley has an important place and covers a large area. In 1971 it covered 39,465 ha. It is grown in all parts of the district and flourishes in light as well as ordinary soil and often does not need any irrigation. It is commonly sown after early rice and is grown separately as well as mixed with other crops.

**Wheat**—Wheat is more valuable but a more expensive crop. It requires a rich and well-manured soil and is mainly confined to the *goind* land where it can obtain the abundant irrigation that it needs. It is sown in Kartika (October-November) in land that has been ploughed more often than it is for barley, sometimes twenty times. It is watered in December, January and February, unless this is rendered unnecessary by abundant winter rains and is harvested at the end of March or the beginning of April. In parts where the soil is very rich, wheat is grown as a second crop after early rice or after *jowar* and *bajra* when these are grown alone. The area covered by wheat was 44,285 ha. in 1971.

**Gram**—Gram is also an important Rabi staple and the area under its cultivation has increased considerably. This extension is due to the increase in the practice of double cropping as now it is generally sown with pea. Gram is generally sown in fields from which the rice crop has been taken. It is also sown in lowlying ground which becomes flooded in the rainy season, where it is sown after the floods recede. In 1971 the area under gram grown alone and mixed was 32,564 ha.

**Pea**—Pea is a favourite food crop and is the earliest to be reaped of all the Rabi staples, as the crop is ready for harvesting by the end of February. It is usually watered once and does not require much manure. It is grown in the best land, the fields to receive it having been left fallow during the rains, as well as in inferior land, after early rice, maize and jowar. In 1971 the area of under it was 15,165 ha.

**Other Crops**—Of the Rabi pulses, *arhar* is the most important and it covered an area of 11,590 ha. in 1971. It is sown with the main kharif crops but is harvested after most of the Rabi crops. This is perhaps why it is hardly ever sown singly, being usually combined with jowar or *bajra* which are harvested by November-December leaving it standing alone in the fields.

### Non-food Crops

The main non-food crops of the district are sugar-cane, jute, sunn-hemp and oil-seeds of different kinds. Sugar-cane is an important crop, the area under it in 1901 being 40,636 acres (16,444 ha.). In 1971 it was grown in 17,130 ha. in both loan and clay soils. There are three varieties that are grown in the district—*kuswar*, *mangun* and *sarauti*, the cultivation of any of these being a matter of preference on the part of the cultivators. Sunn-hemp is grown both for its fibre and as green manure. It was sown in an area of 77 ha. in 1971. In 1971, oil-seeds covered an area of 504, mustard 443, linseed 31 and ground-nut 30 ha.

### PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

Soon after the country became independent, it was realized that as traditional methods of cultivation could not meet the rapidly increasing demand for food-grains, improvements and changes in the pattern and techniques of cultivation would have to be adopted. Therefore the development of agriculture began to occupy an important place in the Five-year Plans and improved methods of agriculture began to be used in the district particularly those of growing wheat and barley and the Japanese method of paddy cultivation was thought to the cultivators of the district. These methods include proper tillage, sufficient and timely manuring, sowing seeds of improved varieties and high-yielding crops, sufficient and timely irrigation and protection of crops against pests and diseases. The sixties of this century saw the ushering in of the 'green revolution' in the country, under which programmes of intensive cultivation and sowing of high-yielding varieties of crops were successfully implemented. In the district, this is done through agricultural campaigns—Kharif, Rabi and Zaid—which are organised every year. During the campaign period the workers and progressive cultivators are given training in different agricultural techniques. Stress is laid on taking recourse to the various methods of development such as plant protection measures, use of improved agricultural implements and the proper storage of grain, etc. The agriculture department gives *taqavi* and other loans to the cultivators for purposes like the purchase of chemical fertilizers, agricultural implements, improved variety of seeds, pesticides and bullocks. It distributed 380 storage bins in 1975-76. The following statement gives an idea of the number of agricultural implements, machines, etc., which were distributed by the agriculture department in 1975-76 :

Name of implement/machine	No. of implements distributed
Improved plough	1,883
Power thresher	242
Cultivator	79
Singh <i>patala</i>	37
Seed drill	—
Oil pad threshers	50
Other implements	2,369



### Agriculture Co-operatives

The age-old practice of joint farming carried out by the village community is fast disappearing but it is assuming new forms with increasing government participation for the welfare of the rural people of the district. Co-operative societies have been formed in the villages for a variety of purposes like the distribution of seeds, loans, fertilizers and implements and for farming, irrigation, cattle breeding, marketing of agriculture produce, etc. There are five marketing societies which are operating in the district. The following statement gives some information about them:

Name of society	Year of starting	Produce handled in 1974-75	
		In quintals	In Rs
Chitwara gaon	4-1-58	8,572	12,62,462
Rasra	19-10-59	2,548	5,54,652
Bilthra Road	9-2-61	1,048	1,21,500
Rani Ganj	7-2-66	1,256	1,78,358
Ballia	3-1-74	—	—

The amount of loans distributed by the co-operative department during the five years ended 1974-75 are detailed in the statement that follows :

Year	Amount of loan Agricultural purposes	distributed (in Rs) Purchase of cattle and buffaloes
1970-71	52,16,000	4,60,000
1971-72	63,32,000	3,09,000
1972-73	84,29,000	17,02,000
1973-74	1,03,25,000	24,83,000
1974-75	1,24,91,000	17,36,000

### Seed Supply

The agriculture and co-operative departments have started their own seed stores in the district to supply improved seeds to cultivators, their number being 55. The statement below gives some details about the seeds distributed during the five years ended 1974-75 :

Year	Types of seeds distributed with quantity (in quintals)				
	Wheat	Gram	Barley	Paddy	Other seeds
1970-71	2,376	755	1,582	291	856
1971-72	3,417	692	1,318	328	856
1972-73	4,013	673	1,011	320	527
1973-74	3,779	668	1,051	257	385
1974-75	2,857	1,021	775	220	239

## Government Agriculture Farms

There are two agriculture farms in the district—Sohaon and Keora.

The Sohaon agriculture farm, which started functioning in 1963, is situated on the western side of tahsil Ballia, on the Ghazipur-Ballia road and is about 5 km. distant from the Ganga. Its total area is about 9.7 ha. of which 8.9 ha. is cultivable. Modern methods of agriculture are employed and improved variety of seeds are used. In 1975-76 the area covered by Kharif crops was 8.9 ha. and the total produce from the various Kharif crops (paddy, maize, *bajra*, *moong*, *urd*, *arhar*, *til*, sunflower and ground-nut) was about 96 quintals. During that year the total produce of the Rabi crops (wheat and gram) was about 246 quintals. The Keora agriculture farm is situated in tahsil Bansdih, about 5 km. east of the tahsil headquarters and the Keora Bhadner canal passes through it. The area of the farm is 5.2 ha. of which only 4 ha. is worth cultivating. Agriculture is done by employing modern methods but the only source of irrigation is this canal which often fails to supply water in time which effects the production adversely. In 1975-76 the total produce of the Kharif crops was about 30 quintals and that of the Rabi about 122 quintals.

The seeds produced in these farms are distributed through the various seed stores of the district.

## Horticulture

The district had a total area of 4,367 ha. under groves in 1976. The three commonly seen are mango, guava, jack-fruit, *jamun*, neem and *shisham*. The horticulture department has a nursery which supplies fruit plants and seeds of vegetables to the cultivators. There are two private nurseries in the district also. Nearly 40 lakhs seedlings, 1 lakh plants, 50 quintals of vegetable seeds, 5 kg. of flower seeds and 1,000 quintals of other commercial crop seeds were supplied by these nurseries.

## Rotation of Crops and Mixed Cultivation

The farmers of the district have been growing different crops by rotation in the same field for centuries but in the past their knowledge about the advantages of the practice of growing crops in rotation was empirical rather than scientific. The agriculture department now makes available to the cultivators the results of the latest researches regarding the rotation of crops. They are, therefore, more enlightened than before and try to adopt newer systems of rotations of crops. Different rotations of crops in the district depend, among other factors on the type of soil and the availability of irrigation. Generally two crops are grown in the district which are mostly wheat and paddy. The main rotation in irrigated fields is wheat or *masur* with gram after paddy. In unirrigated fields it is gram or *masur* after paddy; wheat, gram and peas after *sawan*; and barley, gram and linseed

after jowar. Leguminous crops like *moong* and *urd* provide nitrogenous ingredients to the soil and are sown mixed with *arhar*, jowar, *til* or ground-nut.

**Mixed Cultivation**— The practice of growing more than one crop in a field simultaneously gives additional harvests and increases the fertility of the soil. Neither do pests, diseases and adverse weather conditions affect all the crops equally or at the same time. Accordingly, *arhar* is sown mixed with *bajra* or with both jowar and *urd*; maize with *arhar* and *urd*; barley with gram or pea and potato with wheat.

### Agricultural Diseases and Pests

There are four main enemies of crops in the district—animals, birds, insects and diseases. Monkeys, rats, squirrels, wild animals, bats, parrots and other wild creatures damage the crops badly as do a number of plant diseases which differ from crop to crop. The usual methods of protection normally adopted by the cultivators are fencing, keeping watch and the destruction of animals and birds, pests being destroyed by insecticides. The following statement mentions the common diseases and insects which adversely affect the crops.

Crop	Common insect	Common disease
Paddy	Gundhy bug Paddy stem borer Rice hispa Army worm Root weevil	Khaira Bacterial blight Bacterial streak Blast Tungrovires
Jowar and bajra	Red hairy caterpillar Leaf roller Stem borer Gujia and termite	Green ear disease of bajra
Wheat		Rust Smut Blight of wheat Powdery mildew Downey mildew Blight of potato Red rat of sugar-cane
Pea and arhar	Pod borer	
Potato	Pyrilla	
Sugar-cane	Stem borer Gujia and termite Sugar-cane white fly	Powdery mildew of mango
Mango	Mango hopper Mango mealy bug	Necrosis Black tip of mango

There are various insecticides and pesticides like alderin, BHC and DDT which are sprayed or dusted on standing crops to control pests and diseases. To save the crops from seed-borne diseases, the seeds are dried in the sun and also treated with certain chemicals before sowing. There are also various leafy growths and weeds which are harmful to the crops. These are usually overcome by systematic and timely weeding, interculturing and deep ploughing of the fields. The plant protection staff posted in the district gives free advice to the cultivators for raising healthy crops, including those of fruits and vegetables. They also provide insecticides, spraying and dusting machines and the services of a trained staff at moderate charges.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES

## Animal Husbandry

As agriculture and animal husbandry are two inseparable units of agricultural development, the development of animal husbandry has been given due place in the Five-year Plans. The animal husbandry department, which looks after the development of animal husbandry, is divided into two sections—the veterinary and the animal husbandry—and is concerned with the development of cattle, poultry breeding, sheep breeding and allied schemes.

The ordinary cattle of the district are small and inferior in strength to those of Punjab and animals of better breeds are few. The majority of animals is fed on *paul* or rice straw, probably one of the poorest kinds of cattle fodder and on which plough cattle can just manage to subsist. The first regular cattle census was taken in 1899 when the enumeration showed 1,36,226 bulls and bullocks and 1,237 male buffaloes, giving an average of 2.3 animals per plough. This figure was somewhat below the general average for the State at that time but was practically the same as that which obtained in the adjoining districts of Deoria and Ghazipur and higher than that of Azamgarh. The second census was taken in 1904 when the number of bulls and bullocks was found to have dropped to 1,32,045 and that of male buffaloes to 905, the number of young stock having increased by some 4,000, the total being 1,40,245. The enumeration also showed 1,05,041 cows and 41,721 cow buffaloes. The sheep numbered 32,000 and the goats 87,000.

The statement given below shows the figures of the live-stock population in the district according to the census of cattle conducted during the year 1971-72 :

Live-stock	Number of animals
Cows	4,24,523
Buffaloes	1,06,914
Sheep	20,819
Goats	61,547
Horses and ponies	3,612
Asses	6,384
Mules	1,010
Pigs	25,125
Camels	290
Cocks and hens	60,119
Ducks	1,742

Sheep and goats are generally reared with the object of obtaining hides, wool and flesh. Occasionally they are folded in the fields for the manure they produce. The goats of the district are of a small and inferior type, yielding little milk and requiring scant attention. Sheep provide coarse wool which is used by the villagers.

### Developments of Live-stock

As cattle provide the required motive power for various agricultural operations including ploughing, harrowing, sowing, irrigation, etc., as well as milk and farmyard manure, cattle development augments agricultural improvement. Bullocks have an important place for draught purposes, bullock carts still being the chief means of rural transport. The development of both milch and draught cattle is essential. Due to the extension of cultivated land, waste land and pastures are decreasing but grazing facilities are provided by government and gaon panchayats and in private groves and cattle are allowed to graze in harvested or fallow fields and within the precincts of the land adjoining railway tracts.

The main fodder crops grown in the district are M.P. Chari, *lobia*, *barseem*, *oa* and *guar* and the total area under them was 306.85 ha. in 1974-75.

Cattle development has been receiving the attention of government since the start of the Five-year Plan in 1951-52 and some schemes were introduced in the district for the development of cattle. Stud bulls and cattle of good breed are imported into the district from Haryana and Punjab. Schemes for intensive cattle development have also been launched in the district.

To improve the breed of cattle government established artificial insemination centres in the district and there are 14 such centres in the district where cattle are artificially inseminated. The total number of stockman centres in the district is 26. There are 21 veterinary hospitals and 4 "D" class dispensaries in the district. A list of artificial insemination centres and veterinary hospitals is given in Statement II at the end of the chapter. Bulls, bucks, boars and rams are also provided at a very nominal price to private breeders. There is a semen collection centres at Hanu-mangani with a capacity of six bulls which supplies semen to 25 institutions of the district. The officer in charge of the centre is responsible for the production and dispatch of good quality semen to different institutions which are engaged in the improvement of the cattle wealth of the district. Indigenous and inferior type of cattle are castrated. The following statement gives the number of animals treated, castrated, vaccinated against various diseases and artificially inseminated during each Plan period :

Plan period	No. of animals	No. of animals castrated	No. of animals vaccinated	No. of animals inseminated
First Five-year Plan	1,08,922	33,417	62,353	773
Second Five-year Plan	2,67,359	82,434	38,79,583	9,589
Third Five-year Plan	3,34,788	1,15,154	6,53,624	31,336
Fourth Five-year Plan	10,28,402	2,68,541	11,79,859	1,11,898
Fifth Five Year Plan (Up to 31/3/75)	1,84,222	52,797	2,91,168	24,703

The statement below gives the number of domestic animals distributed during each Plan period :

Type of... Animals	Ist Plan	IInd Plan	IIIrd Plan	IVth Plan	Vth Plan
bull	166	70	65	69	—
Buffaloe bull	60	23	3	10	—
Buck	9	—	12	64	—
Ram	28	—	23	101	—
Boar	8	—	7	62	—
Sow	—	—	—	1	—

The two important cattle fairs of the district are the Dadri fair and the Sudhis'ha fair. The Dadri fair is held on the banks of the Ganga, 2 km. south of the town of Ballia. It is organised by the municipal board Ballia, on the occasion of Kartiki Purnima (October-November) and lasts for about a fortnight, the average number of cattle attending the fair being about one lakh. The other fair is held at Sudis'ha during the first week of December

and lasts for about a week and attracts about 60,000 animals. The government also provides loans on easy terms to the farmers of the district for the purchase of cattle and buffaloes of improved breeds, Rs 7,200 being distributed for this purpose in 1974-75.

### Poultry

The main breed of fowls generally found here is *desi* or of the maigenous variety but improved breeds are also reared. There were six government poultry farms in the district which distributed 15,418 day-old chicks, 1,276 month-old chicks and 220 two-month old chicks of improved varieties in the district in 1974-75.

### Fisheries

Fish of different varieties are found in the district. Fish are caught with nets of various kinds and with line and rod. The main activities of the fisheries department are development and exploitation of reservoirs for pisciculture and supply of fingerlings to private breeders and gram samajs under the small water scheme' and the 'applied nutrition programme.' Under the former, fish seeds are collected from the rivers and reared in the nurseries. When they become 2 to 2.5 cm. in length, they are supplied to pisciculturists, the rate of supply being Rs. 40 per thousand. Fish are also produced in the departmental small waters, one such, the Lakhraja Talab, being located in the Mehnagar development block. Under the latter (the applied nutrition programme) gram samajs and private pisciculturist are supplied with fingerlings at the concessional rate of Rs 10 per thousand on the condition that one-fifth of their produce is supplied to the Mahila Mangal Dal which in turn distributes it to pregnant women and school going children. Under this scheme, enthusiastic pisciculturists are given a training for a week as well as a daily allowance of Rs. 3.

There are two fish reservoirs in the district, one at Hajipur and the other at Azamgarh. Fish seeds are produced in these reservoirs and fish seeds brought from tanks and rivers are also multiplied in them.

The number of fingerlings produced and distributed during 1973-74 and 1974-75 were 1,72,950 and 1,27,750 respectively.

There is a co-operative society, Sitaram Matsya Jeevi Sahakari Samiti, in mohalla Sitaram at Azamgarh which came into existence in 1974-75, but it has yet to become actively functional.

### Cattle Diseases and their Treatment

The most common cattle diseases in the district are rinderpest, haemorrhagic septicaemia, Ranikhet disease, fowl pox, black quarter and anthrax, the incidence of the last two being comparatively lower. There are veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and stockmen centres in the district for the treatment of animals

the attendance declined and all the works were closed gradually and by May only those of pargana Lakhnesar remained where the distress felt was greater, the reason being the extreme density of population which was greater than in any other pargana of the State. As compared with other eastern districts, Ballia escaped from the effects of famine to a very great extent.

The next famine occurred in 1877-78 when Ballia was still an integral part of the Ghazipur district. Due to scarce and intermittent rains, the paddy crop and other staples suffered badly. The prices rose to an unprecedented height. Ballia was only slightly affected by this famine. Though the harvest was poor in the lowlying tracts, there was no acute distress. Tahsil Rasra was affected more severely. No remissions of revenue were granted and there were very few suspensions. The only tract that suffered in the famine of 1896-97, though not severely, was pargana Bhadaon, on the Azamgarh border.

In 1908, Ballia approached nearer to famine than on any previous occasion. The conditions were worse than in 1897. The situation was saved by the liberal distribution of *taqavi* and by the rains falling in January.

The district experienced a flood in 1916 when the Ganga rose and overflowed a vast area and 17 people lost their lives. The loss caused to the Ballia municipality amounted to Rs 5,535 and that to the district board, Rs 53,800. Within the Ballia municipal limits 1,799 houses, the value of which was estimated to be Rs 2,64,575 fell down. Parganas Ballia, Doaba, Garha and Konachit East were adversely affected where 13,301 houses collapsed completely and 6,052 collapsed partially, the damage being estimated at Rs 3,82,435. To protect Ballia from subsequent floods, a bund was built by the State Government at a cost of Rs 64,000. It saved the town from inundation in succeeding years but was breached in many places by the floods of 1923. This necessitated the construction of a new bund which skirts the inhabited area of the town. Soon after another bund was constructed by the municipality with a grant of Rs 9,309 from the government.

Some information regarding the natural calamities which have affected the district during the five years ended 1976-77 is given in the table below :



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Some information regarding the natural calamities which have affected the district during the five years ended 1976-77 is given in the table below :

Calamity	Year	Area affected (in ha.)	Relief measures and amount —spent (in Rs)	Relief in land revenue	
				Amount of remission) (in Rs	(Amount of suspension (in Rs
Drought	1972—73	3,38,805	99,936 (gratuitous relief)	74,857	24,22,697
Drought and flood	1973—74	70,847	3,50,984 (gratuitous relief)	2,88,884	17,25,327
Hailstorm, drought and flood	1974—75	2,75,530	83,833 (gratuitous relief) 17,500 (house subsidy)	65,768	5,77,952
Flood	1975—76	1,13,108	1,79,000 (gratuitous relief) 53,000 (house subsidy)	2,62,653	29,73,828
Flood	1976—77	1,84,312	4,20,000 (gratuitous relief) 2,65,000 (house subsidy)	8,13,028	24,34,698

STATEMENT I  
(Principal Crops)

Reference Page No. 75

Type of Crops	Area in thousand acres/hectares				
	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971
<b>A. Food crops</b>					
Early paddy	43/17	51/21	62/25	55/22	92/37
Late paddy	79/32	113/40	113/46	123/50	127/51
Wheat	53/21	51/21	43/17	45/18	109/48
Barley	107/43	100/40	112/14	123/50	98/44
Jowar	6/2.4	8/3.2	8/3.2	8/3.2	4/1.6
Bajra	7/2.8	7/2.8	8/3.2	14/9.7	13/5.3
Maize	30/12	33/13	33/13	46/19	58/23
Gram	89/36	114/46	110/44	101/41	80/32
Potato	4/1.6	3/1.2	3/1.2	5/2.2	7/2.8
Other food crops	228/87	214/87	230/93	185/75	—
<b>Total food crops</b>	<b>646/251.8</b>	<b>669/275.2</b>	<b>712/288.6</b>	<b>605/289.9</b>	<b>588/244.7</b>
<b>B. Non-food crops</b>					
Sugar-cane	32/13	40/17	39/15	40/16	42/17
Cotton	0.1/0.4	0.1/0.4	—	—	—
Jute	—	—	—	—	—
Various types of oil-seeds	4/1.6	2/0.8	1/0.4	2/0.8	—
Fodder	3/1.2	2/0.8	2/0.8	2/0.8	1/0.4
Other non-food crops	3/1.2	4/1.6	3/1.2	1/0.4	—
<b>Total non-food crops</b>	<b>42.1/17.4</b>	<b>48.1/20.3</b>	<b>42/17.4</b>	<b>45/18</b>	<b>43/17.4</b>

## STATEMENT II

*Veterinary Hospital and Artificial Insemination Centres*

Name of block	Veterinary hospital	Artificial insemination centre
Hanumanganj	Ballia Sadar Hanumanganj	—
Ratanpura	Ratanpura	—
Rasra	Rasra	Rasra
Nagra	Nagra	Nagra
Siar	Siar	Siar
Chilkahar	Chilkahar	Chilkahar
Garwar	Garwar	Garwar
Pandah	Pandah Sikandarpur	Pandah
Beruarbari	Beruarbari	Beruarbari
Dubhand	Dubhand	Dubhand
Bairja	Bairia	Bairia
Belahari	Babubel	Babubel
Murlichapra	Murlichapra	Murlichapra
Bansdih	Bansdih	Bansdih
Reoti	Reoti Sahtwar	Reoti
Sohaon	Narhi	Narhi
Maniar	Maniar	—
Nawanagar	Nawanagar	—
Total 18	21	14

## CHAPTER V

### INDUSTRIES

The district has a good agricultural base and a reasonably good infrastructure of various facilities but the industrial base is weak, resulting in a low economic return to the district. The gap between the dominating agriculture and the weak industrial base can be bridged by a co-ordinated approach to enrich the economy of the district. The lack of enterprise and technical knowledge in the local people and the paucity of skilled labour are two major handicaps in the way of the industrial growth of the district. Industrially the district has been one of the backward districts of the State. For want of chronicles it is not possible to trace the history of the development of industries, vocations and the level achieved in the past but in ancient times and also in the Mughal period, as was the case with the rest of the country, many villages of this region constituted self-sufficient economic units producing their own food, agricultural implements and other necessities of life. It is likely that during the reign of the first four Mughal emperors some industries and handicrafts prospered and received encouragement from them and the local chiefs.

#### Old-time Industries

The old-time manufacturers of the district were of some importance and a few afforded employment to a large number of persons. The main were sugar, saltpetre and cloth. There were 571 refineries for sugar in the district in 1882, each of which earned a net profit of about Rs 500. Though the number of refineries came down to 250 at the beginning of the present century, the business was fairly flourishing and the sugar produced was considered to be the best manufactured in India by the indigenous process. The decline of the industry was due to the competition of foreign sugar, particularly that from Mauritius. Though the export trade fell, the local reputation of the sugar remained the same, especially of that produced at Hanumanganj. In tahsil Ballia the main refineries were at Hanumanganj, Palkhauli and Ballia, in Bansdih at Jijauli, Nawanganagar, Mairitar and Maniar and in Rasra at Lahsani, Athila, and Katwari. The sugar was made from *gur* produced in the district itself though a considerable quantity was imported from Saran and Shahabad (Bihar State) and Gorakhpur only *chini* was manufactured here and not *misri* (crystallized sugar). The *gur* was first melted and then stored in large earthen pots. After being clarified with *stwar*, a weed which grew in great abundance in the Suraha Tal and other lakes, the liquor was allowed to percolate through the

bottom of the earthen vessel, leaving behind a deposit of dry sugar, which was scraped up by means of an instrument called a *pachhni*. The sugar was then spread on a coarse cloth and rubbed with the feet till it became white. This product was styled first class sugar, that of the second class being obtained from the liquor which had escaped from the earthen pot and the refuse from this process was treated a third class sugar. The residue was *shira* (molasses) which was used in the distillation of country spirit.

The next important industry was cotton weaving and in 1901 about 20,000 persons, mainly of the Julaha and Kori castes, were engaged in it and it was carried on in the villages in which the occupational castes predominated. The cloth produced was of the coarse variety known as *garha* but a very good kind was produced at Karammar (in tahsil Bansdih) and a large quantity was exported to Nepal. The main centres of this industry were at Guthaul, Middha, Bairia, Raghunathpur, Bhalsand and Dubhand in tahsil Ballia; at Roati, Saha war, Karammar, Maniar, Sikandarpur, Keora Birnarbari and Husainabad in tahsil Bansdih; and at Rasra nagpura, A hila Jam and Bilaunjha in tahsil Rasra. There has been a considerable decline in this industry owing to the competition with factory-made cloth.

The manufacture of saltpetre was controlled from 1861 and was permitted under licence only, a licence fee of Rs 2 being charged for the manufacture of crude saltpetre while for refining and educing salt the cost of the licence was Rs 50. This industry was in the hands of the Lunias of the district, the work generally beginning in December and continuing till the start of monsoon. The process of manufacture was simple and under each licence the use of two filter beds and an iron boiler was permitted. Nitrous earth and *reh* collected from *usar* land were placed in a filter lined with grass and filled with water which percolated through the grass to an earthen vessel placed beneath and was boiled for three or four hours and then left to stand for two or three days in the earthen vessel. The saltpetre, (mixed with the earth) was deposited on the sides of the vessel and in this form was sold to the refiners at a rate varying from Rs 1.50 to Rs 3 per mound. In 1905 no fewer than 422 licences for manufacturing crude saltpetre were taken out. The saltpetre made in the refineries was also obtained from crude saltpetre that obtained by filtration being known as *kushia*. The two kinds were mixed and exported to Calcutta and from there were despatched to China, America and other places. The price varied from Rs 6 to Rs 9 per maund, the rate depending on the purity of the product as well as on the market of the State. In 1905 there were 3 refineries at Bansdih, 2 at Turtipar and one at Mundiar, the total quantity of refined saltpetre produced being 8,814 maunds, of which 3,259 maunds were of the *kushia* variety. The salt educed amounted to 697 maunds.

Of the remaining old-time industries, indigo at one time occupied an important position but its manufacture became almost extinct in course of time. With some excursions, this industry was in the hands of the local people. Gradually nearly all

the factories had to be shut down due to the decline in the price of natural indigo and the competition of synthetic dyes from abroad. There was a distillery for the production of *tar* (oil of roses) and other scented oils at Sikandarpur. The scents, etc., produced were exported to Calcutta and other places and had a reputation equal to that of similar products made at Ghazipur. White metal vessels were manufactured at Turtipur, which at one time had a considerable reputation. Iron trays, *angutis* (braziers) and water pots were made at Ballia and exported. Palanquins were made at Saha'war and sold in large numbers at the Dadri fair. Embroidered saddles and palanquin covers were also made by the Julahas of Bairia and shoes were manufactured at Toka Deori and Sikaria in the tahsil Rasra. There were two steam power flour mills at Ballia at the beginning of the present century. Maniar was famous for the manufacture of *tikulis* (small round pieces of ornamental glass fixed on the forehead by women) which were exported to Varanasi Patna, Calcutta, Bombay and Gujrat. Women were also engaged in this industry. Pieces of glass, shining paper, acid, colour and iron were used as the raw materials, which were imported from Patna, Varanasi and some other places. About 20 per cent of the total product of this industry was used locally and the rest was sold to different places through commission agents.

The main causes of the decay of these old-time industries were the lack of government assistance, lack of marketing facilities and the competition of mill-made goods at much cheaper rates.

### Power

Electric power is available from the U. P. Grid to the district which has 8 power substations.

By the end of 1971-72 about 600 industrial connections were sanctioned of which 150 were for the rural and the rest for the urban areas. In 1973-74 the number rose to 850. In 1973-74, the consumption of power in various sectors of economy in the district was as follows :

Sector of economy	Consumption of power (in kw.)
Agricultural purposes	1,45,80,000
Industrial purposes	64,00,000
Street lighting and domestic purposes	77,75,000

### Rural Electrification

Under the rural electrification scheme, 305 villages were electrified till 1971-72 and during 1973-74 the number rose to 502.

## Large-scale Industry

Kisan Sahkari Chini Mill, Ltd., Rasra, is the only large scale unit in the district. The mill is situated in village Burhwa Madhaur which is 4 km. east of Rasra proper. Though this unit was established in 1969-70, its actual operation started in 1975-76. The total investment of the unit was Rs 4.30 crore and 25,435 quintals of raw material were consumed in 1975-76. This mill has a crushing capacity of 12 500 metric tonnes per day and employs 550 persons.

## Small-scale Industries

Oils, wheat, flour, dal, rice, chemicals, engineering goods, mechanical goods, glassware, electrical goods, leather goods and textile and allied products are produced in a large number of small-scale units, which are located mainly in the urban areas.

The following statement gives the comparative figures of certain items pertaining to the small-scale industries in the district as in 1956 and 1976 :

Particulars	1956	1976
Number of units	254	96
Number of persons employed	5,132	550
Investment (in Rs)	20,68,100	48,66,800
Production (in Rs)	59,79,000	1,40,47,000

The investment in and production of goods in the small-scale industries sector has gone up since 1956. A brief description of the small-scale industries functioning in the district as follows :

**Mechanical Engineering**—Spare parts of machinery, rolling shutters, threshers, steel boxes and nails are produced in 16 units, which are located mainly at Ballia, Rasra, Bil'hara Road, Phaphana, Teekhampur and Lohapatti. General repair work is also done by some of these units.

**Agricultural Implements**—Agricultural implements such as ploughs, crushers, buckets and pans (for making jaggery) are produced in 19 units, the majority of which are located at Ballia, Rasra, Bil'hara Road, Taribargaon, Navanura, Lohapatti and Baberi. The units are operated by electricity and use iron and coal as raw materials.

**Food and Allied Products**—Biscuits, toffee, and other confectionery are produced in three units, located at Ballia, Bil'hara road and Teekhampur. Sugar, maida, suji and ghee are used as raw materials in this industry.



**Industries based on Live-stock—Shoes, chappals and suit-cases** are manufactured in four units, located at Chitbaragaon, Ballia and Rasra. Leather, wax and other allied goods are used as raw materials in this industry.

**Glass and Ceramics—Optical lenses and crude articles of glass, cement jadies, etc.,** are manufactured in 3 units located at Rasra and Ballia. Glass, cement, sand and allied articles are used as raw material in these units.

**Wood-work Industries—The manufacture of wooden furniture, frames for doors, windows, beds, chairs, tables and other timber work** is done by 16 units, located at Baheri, Neerupur, Rasra, Chitbaragaon, Sahatwar, Shankerpur, Ravla, Hanumanganj and Chatarpur. Wood is obtained locally which is used as raw material.

**Chemical and Allied Products—Candles, Ayurvedic medicines, soap, perfumed oils and paints** are manufactured in 19 units located at Raniganj, Bahadurpur, Garwar, Ballia, Karnali, Rasra, Kadampar, Haripur, Bilthara Road, Baheri, Sahatwar and Sikandarapur. These units use wax, colour, caustic soda, castor oil, etc., as raw material.

**Other Industries—Pens, bricks, printing, readymade garments and building materials** are manufactured in 9 units scattered in the district.

The following statement indicates the total investment, the value of goods or products and the number of persons employed in the small-scale industries of the district as in 1975-76 :

Type of industry	Investment (in Rs)	Number of persons employed	Total production (in Rs)
Mechanical engineering	8,47,000	69	38,36,000
Agricultural implements	5,31,000	92	24,35,000
Food and allied products	2,32,000	22	4,06,000
Live-stock based articles	26,000	9	1,17,000
Agro-based articles	17,46,000	72	34,91,000
Woodwork products	3,58,000	77	14,76,000
Glass and ceramics	60,000	20	2,05,000
Chemical and allied products	6,89,000	84	18,61,000

### Village and Cottage Industries

The village and cottage industries of the district are mostly based on the handicrafts which have been handed down from generation to generation. Leather goods, pottery, edible oil, small

carpets, boxes of matches, *resha*, processed grain, soap, handmade paper and agricultural implements are the goods produced in the industrial units, which are manned and owned by particular sections of the villages community.

A survey of the village and cottage industries pertaining to 1956 revealed the following facts :

Number of units	16,400
Number of persons employed	62,245
Investment (in Rs)	30,70,000
Value of raw material used (in Rs)	1,17,22,000
Value of goods produced (in Rs)	1,73,42,400

**Leather Work**—Leather tanning and the manufacture of shoes and other articles of leather are age-old industries depending mostly on traditional skill and workmanship. Skins are tanned by the vegetable tanning process which does not give satisfactory results the leather produced being of inferior quality. The shoes made conform mostly to indigenous designs. In 1975 there were 24 co-operative societies, located at Bansdih Chitbaragaon, Ranigani, Rasra and Ballia, which were engaged in this industry and employed 210 persons. In 1975 the total investment was Rs 1,19,825 the raw materials consumed was valued at Rs 3,11,000 and the articles produced were worth Rs 4,48,000.

**Pottery**—Pottery one of the oldest industries of the district, still contributes substantially to the economic life of the people. The earthenware, tiles and statues of gods and goddesses (particularly of Ganesh, Lakshmi, Siva, Durga and Saraswati) are produced by potters. These products fetch very good prices at fairs and festivals. Smooth black clay, commonly used for making pots, is plentiful in local tanks. In 1975, there were 26 co-operative societies in the district engaged in this industry which were mainly located at Ballia and Rasra and employed 77 persons. The total investment was Rs 81,083, the raw materials consumed were valued at Rs 47,255 and the articles produced were worth Rs 88,000.

**Dal and Rice Pounding**—Prior to the advent of machinery for such purposes, dal splitting by hand was a household industry which gave employment to a large number of men and women. Rice is produced from paddy and the pounding is done by people. In 1975 there were 7 co-operative units for this purpose but only one, located at Hanumanganj, was engaged in the industry which employed 72 persons. The total investment was Rs 72,413 the raw materials consumed were valued at Rs 27,224 and the articles produced were worth Rs 29,079.

**Oil**—Oil is extracted in 11 units, located at Ballia, Ranigani Nagara and Bilhara Road, mostly from mustard seed and linseed

Most of the oil crushers are operated by animals. In 1975 the total investment in these units was Rs 2,79,063, the raw materials consumed were valued at Rs 1,16,000, the product was worth Rs 1,44,000 and 67 persons were engaged in the industry.

**Smithy and Carpentry**—Simple agricultural tools and implements such as sickles, spades, axes, cutters, wooden frames for doors and windows, beds, wheels for carts, ploughs and some pieces of furniture are manufactured throughout the district but 6 registered co-operative units, which are also engaged in this work, are located at Ballia and Rasra. In 1975, the total outlay of these units was Rs 97,475, the product was valued at Rs 94,000, the raw material consumed was worth Rs 91,750 and 32 persons were employed in them.

**Boxes of Matches**—Of the 5 registered co-operative units in the district, only one was in operation in 1975. Its total outlay was Rs 1,21,025, it produced boxes of matches valued at Rs 1,65,000, consumed raw material worth Rs 1,48,035 and employed 58 persons.

**Handloom Industry**—In 1973, there were 22 handloom societies in the district, with a total membership of 632, of which only 10 were active. The number of looms in the district was 1,614 of which 375 were in the co-operative sector and the rest were owned by individuals. The main items of production were saris, *gamchah* and *garha*. The total outlay in the co-operative sector was Rs 1,91,736. There is no power-loom in the co-operative sector and only 4, owned by individuals, are working in the district. The working handloom co-operative societies are located at Rasra, Bansdih Chakra, Kurem, Sughar, Chapra, Meuri, Ballia, Nagara, Kanpur, Bairia and Belungha.

**Perfumed Oil**—The making of perfumed oils is an old-time cottage industry of the district and is located mainly at Sikandarpur. About 125 units are engaged in this industry and more than 400 persons are employed in these units. Til and different flowers are used as raw material, the former being imported and the latter found in the neighbouring villages. The capital outlay of this industry is Rs 37,500. About 90 per cent of the product is exported and the remaining 10 per cent is consumed locally.

In addition to the registered units there are 15,910 unorganized units, which give employment to 36,964 persons. The important groups of such industries, the number of units, their location and the number of persons employed in this sector are mentioned in the table below.

Type of Industry	No. of units	No. of persons employed	Location of units
Gur making	10,000	25,000	Scattered throughout the district
Handloom	1,402	1,514	Naureepa Mauari, Nagva, Rani-ganj Bansdih Karammar, Suknpura, Ravti, Sahatwar, Rasra, Belaugha, Kurem, Chakra
Making of bamboo articles	900	1,800	Baheri, Chitbaragaon, Rasra, Pusauli, Misroolee, Patk-hauri, Gadvas pachkhaurakala Ratsara, Chilkahas.
Leather tanning	700	1,400	Kusha, Dhamila, Azizpur, Nad-aull, Bari, Mustaiabad, Kut-ayt, Kurem, Kudsar, Bhan-tai Narhn Patna Shashpur Nazipur, Seerwapur Naupura, Feerozpur
Rope and bag making	434	870	Sohavan, Sahatwar, Saraichota Naseerpur, Bairia, Bansdih. Nagara Chilkahar
Flour rice milling, pulse decorticating, etc.	239	500	All over district
Leather shoe making	225	405	Ballia, Bairia, Kazipur. Khareed, Tangarhi, Rasra, Ratsara, Ibrahimabad, Bahuvara, Talecpur, Bilthra, Road, Chit-baragaon, Kutubpur, Maniar, Sikandarpur, Bansdih
Blanket weaving	138	540	Dubty, Jamalpur Pandepur, Dubhara Phephna
Oil ghani producing	1,000	1,500	Hajooli, Salampur, Rasra, Nagpur, Dahri, Kotwari, Pradhanpur, Bilthra, Road, Madhoopur, Jam, Basanhi Sultanpur, Sohahi, Sisvara, Sahranpur, Van, Nagara, Pahseya, Nas-eerpur, Gadhiya, Taribarag-aon, Sarhaspur, Chilkahar
Palki making	16	25 (Families)	Sahatwar
Tikuli making	40	84	Maniyar
Zardozi making	—	—	Tikadeori

## Industrial Estate

There is no industrial estate in the district.

## AID TO INDUSTRIES

Ballia is one of the industrially underdeveloped districts of Uttar Pradesh and assistance is given to various industries in the district under the State Aid to the Industries Act, 1956, and the credit guarantee schemes of the State Bank of India but as there is a dearth of entrepreneurs in the district, the credit facilities available are not being fully utilized.

The U. P. financial corporation advances loans at a lower rate of interest than other banking concerns—between 7 and 7.5 per cent with a rebate of 1 to 1.5 per cent for prompt repayment. It gives a longer grace period also—up to 4 years and a longer repayment period—up to 15 years.

**The Central Financial Institution—**The Industrial Development Bank of India and the industrial financial corporation of India advance loans for projects up to Rs one crore to entrepreneurs at an interest rate lower by one per cent than the normal rate.

The U.P. financial corporation, Kanpur, extends assistance to industrial concerns and also renders financial assistance on behalf of the State Government. Its own plan of disbursement is known as the corporation loan scheme and loans advanced on behalf of the State Government are under the liberalized loan scheme and the ordinary loan scheme. Under the former, loans are advanced at reduced rates of interest and for longer periods—extending up to 15 years. The corporation has been authorised to carry on and transact various types of business. It has confined its activities to the granting of loans to industrial concerns, issuing of deferred payment and giving a guarantee to industrial units for the purchase of indigenous machinery. It also acts as an agent of the State Government for various schemes and can grant loans under the corporation loan scheme to the extent of Rs 30,00,000 in the case of private and public limited companies or registered co-operative societies and Rs 15,00,000 in the case of proprietorship concerns. The rate of interest is 11.5 per cent per annum with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt payment. The loans under the ordinary loan scheme and the liberalized loan scheme are considered for amounts ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 50,000. The applications for loans under the schemes are channelised through the district industries officer, Ballia. The interest charged is 8 per cent per annum with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt payment. The loans are recoverable in eight equal instalments. The number of instalments is increased in the case of the liberalized loan scheme. The following statement gives an idea of the loan assistance provided by the corporation as on March 31, 1974 :

Scheme	Number of units	Loan disbursement by 31-3-74 (in lakhs of Rs)
Corporation loan scheme	3	3.52
Liberalized loan scheme	8	2.08
Ordinary loan scheme	5	0.42

The other institutions which have rendered assistance to the industries of the district are the U. P. small-scale industries corporation, Kanpur, and the national small industries corporation. The State Government also helps through the handloom industry scheme, the khadi development scheme, the intensive development scheme, the credit and grant scheme and the industrial co-operative society scheme.

#### OTHER FACILITIES AND CONCESSION OFFERED

Being one of the 36 backward districts of the State, there is scope for it to receive more assistance and concessions from the State Government. It is also one of the six districts of the State selected by the Central Government for a ten per cent outright capital subsidy on the fixed assets of a unit established after August, 1971, which can be increased to 5 lakhs in a single case.

**Power Subsidy**—A subsidy on the consumption of power is granted to registered small-scale units up to 20 h.p. at the rate of Rs 0.09 per unit (maximum).

**Financial Assistance**—From 1974-75, loans are being given up to a maximum of Rs 25,000 in any case at the district level, the rate of interest charged being 8.5 per cent per annum, which is less by one per cent for Ballia as compared to other districts, the period of repayment also being longer. Indigenous and imported machines and equipment are supplied to industrial units on easy instalments by the U.P. small industries corporation, as well as by the national small industries corporation. The former provides indigenous machines up to a maximum value of Rs 5.5 lakhs and the latter arranges both indigenous and imported machines on a hire purchase basis. The applicant unit has to give 10 per cent of the cost of the machines, the rest being paid by the corporation. In addition, 5 per cent service charges have also to be paid by the unit concerned. Further concessions under this scheme are available to technical entrepreneurs as far as the margin money and service charges are concerned. The repayment of the amount is made in easy instalments ranging from 5 to 7 years. The rate of interest is 10 per cent with a rebate of 2 per cent for prompt payment. Imported and indigenous raw materials are also provided to registered units on a priority basis. Registered units are also exempted from payment of octroi on construction materials and machinery for a period of 5 years from

the date of registration or the receipt of the letter of intent. A travel subsidy is also given up to 25 per cent towards travel cost incurred by an entrepreneur for visiting modern industrial concerns for the study of new practices and techniques at various places in the country. Under the technical consultancy scheme, a cell of the directorate of industries has been established in the district with specialists in different lines to give technical advice to the State Government which gives a grant of 25 per cent to an industrial unit for the preparation of its project report by approved consultants. Certain marketing facilities are also given and a 15 per cent price preference is also allowed to the products of small-scale industrial units over and above the price which obtains in units of other States.

#### INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND INDICATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

With the introduction of modern methods of cultivation and the almost sure expectation of getting a fair price for agricultural produce, the economic condition of the cultivators of the district has improved, which provides the district with a better base for industries development. The prospects of the establishment of new industries in the district depend on the availability of resources and raw material and the existing and anticipated demand for various manufactured items. Since there is only one large-scale unit in the district, there is scope for the establishment of a few more and also for the setting up of ancillary industries.

The district is well served by means of communications (roads) which pay an important part in industrial and economic prosperity by connecting a place with internal and external markets, bringing in raw materials etc. Ballia is the last district of Uttar Pradesh on the Bihar border and the only rail link for this district is a metre-gauge line. It abuts on the districts of Varanasi, Azamgarh and Gorakhpur. There is a network of roads connecting the district with all important places within it and outside it.

Industries can be classified as resource-based and demand-based. Under the former, certain industrial units can be established to utilize the available resources of the district. A solvent extraction plant may be set up in the district, which produces a sufficient quantity of oil-seeds, as a fair quantity of oil is left in the oil cake after it has been crushed by indigenous methods. By the solvent extraction process there is the double advantage of the recovery of all the oil from the oil cake and the rendering dry of it, which makes it an easily exportable item. A potato-chip plant can also be established in the district, as more than 25,000 tonnes of potatoes are produced here in a year. A small-scale unit for manufacturing cardboard can also be established at Ballia as the husk of paddy, wheat and maize, the raw material of this industry, is available in the district. A few units for fruit and vegetable preservation can also be established, as the district produces mango, guava, jack fruit, tomatoes and chillies in considerable quantities. There is scope for setting up a few units for the manufacture of pickles. There are more than 6,15,000 cattle,

buffaloes, sheep and goats in the district. Allowing for the mortality rate of 10 per cent, the hides and skins yielded would approximate to 60,000 per year, most of which could be tanned locally and the rest exported. Thus a modern tannery can be established in the district. There is no bone-crushing unit in the district though about 2,500 tonnes of bones are available in the district every year. A unit with a capacity of 3 to 5 tonnes per day can be set up for the manufacture of bone-meal. Flour is milled by small mills which have a limited capacity and there is no roller mill in the district. With the increasing demand for *maida* and *suji*, the establishment of a roller mill will help the industry considerably. There is scope for opening a few rice and dal mills also.

Among the major factors determining the demand for consumer goods are the size of the market, demand of the population, purchasing power of the buyer, degree of urbanization and the taste and outlook of the purchaser. With the advancement of modern medical aid and the expansion of hospitals and primary health centres, the demand for distilled, saline and glucose water has increased, so manufacturing units can be set up to meet this demand. Units for the manufacture of agricultural implements, hand pumps, cycle parts, builders' hardware, steel furniture, rolling shutters, conduite pipes, electrical goods, items of housiery, ready-made garments, polythene sheets and bags, plastic items, soap, candles, *jalis*, items of stationery, geometry boxes and sports goods, can be set up in the district. There is scope for the establishment of at least two more cold storages. The old-time industries need serious attention and efforts deserve to be made to revive them.

### Labour Organization

There is no trade union registered in the district.

**Labour Welfare**—The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Employment of Children Act, 1936, the U. P. Maternity Benefit Act, 1938, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the U.P. Industrial Establishment (National Holidays) Act, 1961, and the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, are to ensure the enforcement of the labour laws, the advancement of labour welfare schemes and the maintenance of liaison between employees and employers. The details of labour welfare are given in chapter XVII (Other Social Services) of this volume.



## CHAPTER VI

### BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

#### History of Banking

It is difficult to trace the history of indigenous banking in the area now comprising the district but in early times it had a flourishing trade with the adjoining districts of Varanasi, Azamgarh, Ghazipur and some border districts of Bihar. Although there was lack of proper means of communications, goods were transported by boats and on horses. There was also a flourishing internal trade and the transactions were financed by traders and money-lenders called *mahajans*. The indigenous *hundi* system (bills of exchange) was in vogue and treasuries were established by the rulers of the day for the collection and disbursement of money but there were no banks in either the towns or the villages.

The British established their treasury at the district headquarters after taking over the administration of the district in 1801 and subsequently subtreasuries were also established at the tahsil headquarters. At the beginning of the present century, money-lenders (mostly zamindars) and well-to-do speculators, charged high rates of interest. Land and valuable articles such as jewellery were mortgaged or pawned with money-lenders. The money-lenders of the rural areas were more grasping than those in the urban areas and exploited the borrowers brazenly. The rates of interest in the district varied widely with the amount and nature of the loan. Generally advances were made to agriculturists in cash or in grain for seed. The interest on usufructuary mortgages was from 6 to 12 per cent and on a simple mortgage from 12 to 18 per cent per annum. The most common loan took the form of an advance of corn seed which had to be repaid at the time of harvest with an addition of one-fourth to the principal amount, this rate being known as *sawai* (one and a quarter).

The history of modern banking in the district starts with the opening of a branch of the Central Bank of India at Ballia in 1943. The District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, was opened at Ballia in 1947 and the State Bank of India in 1952.

#### General Credit Facilities

Formerly commercial banks gave credit only to big industrialists and traders but from the seventies of this century the emphasis has shifted to agriculturists, small traders, artisans, transport workers, students and self-employed persons.

## Rural Indebtedness

The main occupation of the people of the region covered by the present district was agriculture and the land tenure system had a direct bearing on its economic condition. The position of the agriculturists was far from satisfactory. Their holdings were very small, unequal weather conditions and scanty rainfall at times affected them adversely and they were poverty stricken, constant multiplication of owners and subdivision of their land and the burden of heavy debts, etc., contributing to their wretched condition. During the First and Second World Wars, most cultivators benefited from the rise in prices of agricultural produce and their purchasing capacity increased although this could not change their financial condition to any satisfactory extent as the receipts were substantially offset by the high prices of other necessary items such as clothes, live-stock, implements, agricultural equipments, etc.

The situation has remained much the same and the traditional financial difficulties of the cultivators more or less still exist due to the increase in population, no dispersion of persons in other occupations and professions, etc.

Indebtedness is almost a general feature in the economy of an average family. People take loans at the time of sowing and for social and religious functions such as marriage, *mundan*, *janeo* (sacred thread) and birth and death ceremonies. The Reserve Bank of India held a survey in the region in 1971 which revealed that the family of an average cultivator was in debt to the extent of Rs 265.65 and his assets amounted to Rs 16,037.15 but that an agricultural labourer was in debt to the extent of Rs 161.07, his assets being Rs 1,212.13. *सत्यमेव जयते*

## Urban Indebtedness

Persons serving in establishments and industrial workers living in the urban centres are also generally indebted. Rising prices are now the main cause of urban indebtedness. The Reserve Bank of India's survey of 1971 shows that in the district the family of an average artisan was indebted to the extent of Rs 125.11, the family assets amounting to Rs 2,545.16.

## Debt-relief Legislation

Certain legislative measures have been adopted since the first quarter of this century to regulate the terms and conditions of money-lending.

Under the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, law courts could examine transactions in which they had reason to believe that the interest charged was 'excessive' and the transaction between the parties 'unfair', a measure which aimed at relieving the debtor of all liability in respect of any 'excessive' interest. Through an amend-

ment made in 1926, the Act was made applicable to all the parties seeking relief from mortgages but it did not provide the exact definitions of the terms 'excessive' and 'unfair', which impeded the course of justice as it could not be determined which transaction was 'unfair' and in which case the interest charged was 'excessive'. An amendment was again made in 1934, by which the Act was made applicable to all debtors and debts and it specified the definite limits of 12 per cent and 24 per cent interest to be charged on secured and unsecured loans beyond which the rate of interest was to be deemed to be 'excessive'.

Several legislative measures were enacted from time to time for the scaling down and adjusting of debts. The United Provinces Agriculturists' Relief Act, 1934, provided *inter alia* for the payment of debts in instalments and at a low rate of interest. The U.P. Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act, 1937, provided unconditional stay of proceedings for the execution of the decrees against tenants and those proprietors whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 1,000 a years. The United Provinces Debt Redemption Act, 1940, provides for the charging of interest at low rates and protects the person and property of debtors from being proceeded against. But as the majority of the peasants in the district were illiterate, they could not derive any substantial advantage from these provisions. Money-lenders manipulated the transactions in various ways and generally succeeded in any proceedings of litigation. The U.P. Regulation of Money Lending Act, 1976, was passed in 1975 which provides relief to the small farmers, agricultural labourers, village artisans and other weaker sections of the people of the district. The Act forbids the money-lender from molesting a debtor near the place of work on pay day. Money-lenders are also required to furnish amount slips to their debtors periodically which are open to inspection by the registrar of money-lending. The registrar, money-lending, Uttar Pradesh, controls all money-lending operations in the district. Each money-lender has to obtain a licence for the transaction of business. Another important feature of the Act is that the money-lender will have to make payment through cheques for loans of Rs 1,000 and above. The government has the powers to fix the rates of interest on loans and money-lenders must issue a receipt for every payment made to them.

### **Role of Private Money-lenders and Financiers**

Both in the urban and the rural areas of the district, local money-lenders and other agencies provide credit to the needy. Some of these money-lenders are traders, commission agents and old landlords. Generally the money is advanced under the 'ughai' system and the recovery made is on the basis of Rs 14 for every Rs 12 lent, the debtor having to pay an amount each month and to clear the debt in 12 months. The government, the co-operative societies and the nationalized banks have made efforts to eliminate the system of money being lent by money-lenders but they still continue to play an important part in the economy of the district.

## Government Loans

In the past the practice in the country was that the ruler extended monetary help to the agriculturist in times of distress, flood, famine and other calamities.

Under British rule the practice was continued and on the recommendations of the famine commission, the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 (Act XII of 1883) and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884 (Act XIX of 1884) were passed, both empowering the State Government to frame rules governing the grant and disbursement of loans to agriculturists. After Independence the policy of helping the agriculturist in distress by money and materials has been followed with greater vigour by the government. Now money is advanced not only in times of distress but for the development of agricultural economy. The amounts of agricultural loans distributed since 1972-73 are stated below :

Year	Amount of loans given (in Rs)
1972-73	8,52,130
1973-74	25,41,300
1974-75	72,520
1975-76	1,54,550

## Commercial Banks

The Central Bank of India was the first bank to open a branch in the district in 1943. The State Bank of India followed by opening a branch in 1952. In 1969, there were five branches of different banks in the district and by 1976 the number had increased to 22. The following statement gives the location of the branches of the commercial banks in the district

Commercial banks	Location of branches
State Bank of India	Ballia Ballia city, Chitbaragaon, Sahatwar, Rasra, Bilthra, Sikandarpur
Central Bank of India	Ballia, Lalganj, Reoti, Ratsar, Nagara, Chilkahar
Union Bank of India	Ballia, Garwar, Phephna, Ujiarghat
Allahabad Bank	Ballia, Bansdih, Raniganj
Banaras State Bank	Ballia city and Bilthra Road

After the nationalization of banks in 1969, their lending policy was relaxed and by the end of March, 1976, they had advanced Rs 1,69,15,000, the total deposits amounting to Rs 12,60,13,000. The deposit advance ratio was 13.4 per cent.

Formerly funds were advanced only to the important traders and rich persons of the district. Now funds are also made available to agriculturists, transport workers, small industrialists, traders and self-employed persons who are deemed to be in the priority sector. The following amounts were advanced to them by the end of March, 1976 :

Category	Number of accounts	Amount advanced (in Rs)
Agriculturists	2,550	71,88,000
(a) Direct finance	—	—
(b) Indirect finance	1,780	12,11,000
Small industrialists	31	4,65,000
Transport workers	160	1,68,000
Retail traders	153	8,19,000
Self-employed persons	222	2,24,000
Others	—	68,40,000
Total		1,69,15,000

### Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement was initiated in the district with the establishment of 4 co-operative societies in 1917-18 to alleviate the condition of the masses suffering at the hands of indigenous bankers. In the beginning the growth of the movement was very slow and the number increased only to 14. In 1930 there were only 31 co-operative societies with a total membership of 671 but by 1940 their number had gone up to 116, with a membership of 2,873. There was no central bank for these co-operative societies in the district till 1946. The District Co-operative Bank, Ltd, Ballia, was established in 1947 and the co-operative movement began to assert itself as more money was advanced to the agricultural co-operative societies for being loaned to agriculturists. The co-operative movement assumed new dimensions after Independence, the number of co-operative societies having increased to 466 by 1950 and to 904 by 1960. Attempts have been made since 1960 to constitute large societies by amalgamating smaller ones so the total number came down to 563 by 1970. The rate of interest on loans advanced by the agricultural co-operative societies has also increased in the last 50 years. It was 4 per cent per annum in the twenties and thirties, 6.7 and 8.5 per cent per annum in the forties, fifties and sixties respectively and 13 per cent per annum in 1975.

The following statement indicates the progress of the co-operative movement in the district since 1920 :

Year	Number of societies	Membership	Amount of loans advanced by the societies (in lacs of Rs)
1920	14	310	Not available
1930	31	671	" "
1940	116	2,873	" "
1950	466	28,645	0.39
1960	904	74,318	27.97
1970	563	1,64,714	124.91

### Other Co-operative Institutions

**District Co-operative Federation, Ballia**—This federation was set up in 1948 to link the various local co-operative marketing institutions with the Uttar Pradesh co-operative federation, Lucknow. The main functions of the federation are to make arrangements for the supply of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, etc. It has sponsored the cold storages in the district. In 1975 its total membership was 371 and 55 societies were affiliated to it. The share capital was Rs 1,13,000 and the investment amounted to Rs 8,13,824.

**Co-operative Marketing Societies**—There are five marketing societies in the district, located at Ballia, Chitbaragaon, Rasra, Raniganj and Bilthra Road. Food-grains, oil-seeds, fertilizers and other consumer goods like cloth, etc., are sold in the shops of the marketing societies. Agriculturists also market their food-grains, oil-seeds and other products through these societies and are assured of getting fair returns. In 1975, the total membership of these societies was 9,492 and the share capital was Rs 4,00,986. Regarding their business, the figures of purchase and sale were Rs 29,79,000 and Rs 47,77,000 respectively in 1975.

**U. P. State Co-operative Land Development Bank**—This bank opened its first branch at Ballia in 1962 and later two more branches, one each at Rasra and Bansdih. The main functions of the bank are to provide long-term credit for the improvement of the land, purchase of implements for land improvement, redemption of old debts, planting of orchards and setting up of minor irrigation works. Loans are given against the security of land and can be repaid in instalments. In 1975 the Ballia branch had a membership of 1,938, the share capital was Rs 4,09,600 and a sum of Rs 8,01,700 was given in loan to the members.

**Central Co-operative Consumers Store**—This consumers store was established at Ballia in 1966, its aim being to provide goods of daily use at cheaper rates than those obtaining in the

markets. The store had a share capital of Rs 2,49,821 in 1975, of which the State Government's share was Rs 1,84,273 and its profit Rs 9,833.

There were 282 agriculture co-operative societies and 148 service co-operative societies in the district in 1975

**District Co-operative Bank, Ltd Ballia**—This bank was established in 1947. It finances the co-operative institutions of the district and also provides banking facilities to its members. Unlike the commercial banks, it does not depend on deposits only for enhancing its assets but resorts to a large extent to borrowing and the raising of share capital.

The bank has eight more branches, one each being located at Raniganj, Bansdih, Manipur, Sikandarpur, Rasra, Ratanpura, Chitbaragaon and Bilthra Road.

The progress made by this bank since 1949-50 is indicated in the statement given below :

Service rendered	1949-50	1959-60	1969-70	As on 30th June, 1976
Loans disbursed (in Rs)	29,547	24,05,575	1,07,62,854	1,14,46,803
Total investment (in Rs)	1,11,855	29,07,498	1,31,49,466	40,53,222
Profit (in Rs)	2,283	83,891	1,69,234	79,50,000

The rate of interest charged on advances made by these branches of the bank is from 7 to 10 per cent per annum. A rather disquieting feature is the accumulation of outstanding loans with individuals and co-operatives, which was Rs 1,22,08,472 on June 30, 1976. The share capital of this bank was Rs. 48,11,937 in 1976.

#### NATIONAL SAVINGS ORGANISATION

The post-office savings bank scheme has been operating in the district for a long time to tap savings, to inculcate the habit of thrift in the people and to make funds available to the government for investment in national reconstruction based on the Five-year Plan programmes.

The schemes of defence deposits and national defence certificates have been introduced in the district to raise funds for the defence of the country.

National savings and other small-saving schemes have been formulated to tap the savings of those who generally do not deposit their savings in banks. On December 31, 1975, the number of savings banks accounts in the post-offices of the district was 7,553 and the deposit with the post-offices was Rs 2,27,33,400.

The following statement mentions the amounts invested in different savings schemes in the district during April, 1975, and December, 1975 :

Security	No. of accounts	Value (in Rs)
Post-office recurring deposits	2,400	3,31,100
Post-office time deposits	2,809	56,91,700
Cumulative time deposits	3,137	3,46,300
National saving certificates	1,600	11,93,800

### Life Insurance

The life insurance business was nationalised in September, 1956, and brought within the fold of the life insurance corporation of India. A branch was opened at Ballia in 1961, with a branch manager in charge of the office. The number of persons insured in 1961 was 1,743 and a sum of Rs 66,79,000 was assured. The following statement illustrates the business done under the insurance scheme during the three years ended 1975-76 :

Year	Number of lives assured	Total business procured (in crores of Rs)
1973-74	3,215	2.32
1974-75	3,895	3.68
1975-76	3,845	3.90

### State Assistance to Industries

Assistance is given to industries in the district through the Uttar Pradesh financial corporation, small industries corporation, Kanpur, and the national small industries corporation, New Delhi, and in addition loans are given by the nationalised commercial banks. The subject has been discussed in some detail in chapter V (Industries).

### Currency and Coinage

As far back as the sixth century B.C., gold dust or ingots of gold and silver served as currency. The actual coins, which were



pieces of metal of regular shape whose weight and fineness was guaranteed by a recognized authority, became legal tender. These coins were issued by the government of the day and by merchants, guilds and corporations. They were known as punch marked coins, because one or more figures were marked on them as symbols of the issuing authority, but otherwise they bore no name and no legend. The imperial Guptas also issued a series of coins.<sup>1</sup>

Generally coins of a single metal, copper or silver, were in circulation. The silver coin was known as *purana* or *dhurana* and weighed 32 *ratas*. It is possible that the use of coins found its way into the region now covered by the district.

In the mediaeval period there were mainly three types of coins—the dam, the rupee and the *mohar*. A rupee comprised 40 dams and 10 rupees were computed as equal to a gold *mohar*.<sup>2</sup>

The Gorakhpuri paisa, a thick square disc of copper, was used before the British occupation. The value of this paisa varied from time to time but ordinarily 80 went to a rupee or 5 to an anna. This coinage was current in a large area, including the part now occupied by the district.

The British issued their own rupee of 180 grains. A rupee comprised 16 annas and an anna was subdivided into 4 paise and a paisa into 3 pies.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced in India and so in the district as well on October 1, 1958. The rupee consists of 100 paise. There are coins of 1 paisa, 2 paise, 3 paise, 5 paise, 10 paise, 20 paise, 25 paise and 50 paise in circulation. The old coins of 8 annas and 4 annas are still current in the district (as in the rest of the country) and are equivalent to 50 paise and 25 paise respectively.

The currency of India consists of one rupee notes and coins, issued by the Government of India and bank notes which are issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The distribution of one rupee notes and coins is undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India as the agent of the Central Government. In October, 1969, a restricted number of ten rupee silver coins were issued, bearing the likeness of Mahatma Gandhi on the obverse.

The Reserve Bank of India issued notes of the denominations of a rupee and two, five, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred rupees. Currency and coinage are made available to the district through the branches of the State Bank of India in the district which are fed by the branch of the Reserve Bank of India at Kanpur. Each bank is provided with a currency chest which stocks new or reissuable notes which are stored with the rupee coins.

1. Majumdar, R.C. : *Ancient India*, p. 15

1. Pandey, A. B. : *Later Mediaeval India*, (Allahabad, 1968), p. 491

## TRADE AND COMMERCE

### Course of Trade

In the past, the trade of the district was limited and goods were transported by river, the river routes being important means of communication. After the establishment of British rule, some new metalled and unmetalled roads were constructed. The main items of export from the district were sugar, molasses, ghee, wheat, barley, linseed, opium, mustard oil and hides. Among articles imported were rice, kerosene oil, iron, brass and metal vessels, salt, piece goods and timber. None of the old highways passed through the district and even by the beginning of the present century the roads that existed, for the most part owed their origin to the river-borne traffic and served as feeders to connect the local markets of the interior with the principal wharves. The chief riverside marts on the Ganga were at Ballia, Kotwa, Ujjar and Jauhi and on the Ghaghra at Bilthra Road, Maniar and Parbodhpur. To a large extent the traffic on the waterways was supplanted by the opening of the railway lines which began to traverse the district. The railway gave an impetus to trade, when the rail wagon replaced the bullock cart which had been the main means of transport in the past. The construction of the railways increased the pace of trade but the benefits mainly accrued only to some places in the district and facilitated the export of grain from the important *mandis* of the district.

The new roads and bridges constructed during the Five-year Plans periods have linked the adjoining districts of Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Varanasi and Deoria and the State of Bihar in the east of the district. Trucks are available for the transport of goods.

The pattern of trade has not changed and even now agricultural produce is the main item of export while general merchandise, cloth and other consumer goods make the imports. With the increase of the population of the district in the last fifty years, the size of exports has decreased whereas that of imports has increased. It appears that the district is just self-sufficient in food-grains and oil-seeds. The bulk of imports come from the neighbouring districts.

The railways transport agricultural commodities, general merchandise, cloth, coal and kerosene oil in the region for purposes of both import and export. The important stations for trade are Ballia, Rasra, Bansdih and Bilthra Road. The agricultural produce of the region is collected at different trade centres in the district from where it is re-exported to other regions by road and rail.

Rice, wheat, sugar, salt, cement, general merchandise goods, coal, fertilizers and kerosene oil are the main items that are imported into the district.

## EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

## Exports

The main commodity exported from the district in 1975 was *arhar dal* the quantity being one lac quintals.

## Imports

The import figures of certain important commodities for 1975 are given below:

Commodity	Quantity
Rice	2,00,000 quintals
Wheat	50,000 "
Oil	50,000 "
Sugar	38,000 "
Coal	23,000 tonnes
Kerosene oil	50,000 k. litres

## Trade Centres

The district has numerous trade centres for distributing goods, whether imported or locally produced, spread over each *tahsil* where markets are held once or twice a week. Broadly speaking, there are three types of *mandis* (markets)—primary, secondary and terminal. Primary markets function mostly as produce-assembling centres, a large part of the produce coming from neighbouring villages. Secondary markets are regular whole-sale markets, which assemble produce mostly from primary markets or distribute it among them or perform both these functions. Terminal markets function mostly as produce distributing markets, a large part of the produce coming from secondary markets.

The Ballia market is a secondary and consuming market and is held occasionally as well as regularly. There is daily sale and purchase of various commodities in addition to the two usual market days of the week, Thursdays and Sundays. This was a rural and an insignificant market when only local Banias of small means traded in it. But with the transfer of the headquarters of the government from Korantadih to Ballia, considerable trade and business shifted to the latter which increased with the construction of the post-office and the railway station at Ballia, which is a junction of the Katihar-Allahabad and Ballia-Shahganj lines. The *mandi* established connections with big *mandis* of some other States by steamer service as well as by rail and is now considered to be one of the big distributing centres of the State. It is connected by metalled roads with Reoti, Bansdih, Chitbaragaon, Rasra, Sikandarpur, Kotwanghat, Bilthra Road, Sahatwar, Raniganj, Srirampur ghat, Maniar, Ratsar and Haldi. It mainly deals in rice, gram, pulse, wheat, fish and handloom cloth. Bilthra Road

is another *mandi* for sugar-cane, rice, wheat, *gur* and leather. *Gur* is exported to Bihar, leather to Kanpur and sugar-cane to Deoria. It has many godowns and the railway station is near the *mandi*, thus facilitating trade. It is connected with Ballia, Rasra and other neighbouring districts. Chitbaragaon is another important market which is connected with Ballia, Rasra, Bansdih and other business centres. It is situated near the railway station and is famous for its trade in rice and pulses, which are exported to Bihar, Rasra, Sikandarpur, Bansdih and Maniar which are also important market centres of the district and are also well linked by road and rail.

### Retail Trade

The common requirements of those living in the urban centres of the district are generally met by traders and pedlars operating in the local bazaars, which, in the rural areas are known as *hats*. These *hats* are held on fixed days of the week for the sale of goods of every day use. Among other things, food-grains, cloth, vegetables and salt are sold in these *hats*.

### Fairs

Several fairs are held in the district but the cattle fairs at Ballia, Ratanpur and Dadri are important from the commercial point of view. Small local religious fairs and gatherings are held in nearly all the towns and in many villages of the district, particularly on the occasion of various festivals such as Holi, Dipavali, Dasahra, Id, Guru Nanak's birthday, Budha Purnima, etc. On these occasions brisk trade and commercial activities go on in the fairs. A list of the important fairs of the district is appended at the end of chapter III.

### State Trading

**Fair-price Shops**—In the wake of the Second World War, the prices of all commodities increased throughout the State (including the district) and in order to arrest any further rise (to give relief to consumers, chiefly in the urban areas) the prices of a large number of commodities were controlled and their supply was rationed. Some of the more important commodities thus controlled or rationed were food-grains, cloth and matches. Dealers in these commodities had to obtain licences from the government. Various schemes for rationing of food-grains, chiefly wheat and its products, gram, rice, sugar and kerosene oil have persisted since then with varying spheres of applicability. In 1975, there were 425 fair-price shops in the district in which sugar, wheat and rice were available but consumers prefer to buy the last two in the open market, where the prices have also declined.

### Weights and Measures

In the first decade of the present century, a variety of weights and measures were in use in the district. They were different from those in vogue in Avadh and the western parts of the State. The

use of government standards became general with the improvement of communications but the people of the district, being conservative, continued to use the old measures and weights in use. As regards measures of length, the unit was a *jau* or barley corn, of which three went to the inch, two inches making an *angul* and three *anguls* making a *girah*, of which four went to make a span and eight to a *hath* or cubit. In regard to measurement, a *gaz* (yard), was smaller than the English measure, being 33 inches in length. A different *gaz* was employed for measuring cloth and the like, which was 37.25 inches in length. Three yards or six cubits made a *latha*, so called from its usually taking the form of a bamboo rod ; in the Rasra tahsil, it was common practice for old landlords, when dealing with their tenants, to treat the *latha* as only 5.5 *haths*. The chain or *jarib*, here commonly known as the *rassi* or rope, was made up of 20 *lathas*, 32 *rassis* making a *dhan* or a mile, two *dhaps* making a *kos*. Another measure of length was the *porsa* (or fathom) or four *haths*, which was equivalent to the *bahu* of other districts, was employed only for denoting the depth of water and was conventionally supposed to be the height of a man with his hand extended above his head. For measures of area, the unit was the square *latha* (called a *dhur*) and in the Rasra tahsil this was equivalent to a square of three *qadams* (paces). Twenty such *dhurs* made a *biswa* or *bah* and 20 *biswas* one *bigha*, the latter usually being five-eighths of an acre. A variant of this scale was found in Rasra, where the *bigha* was divided into almost four *mandas*, each of which was equal to five *lathas*, a measure only employed for denoting shares in the *mahal* or village.

For measures of weight the government standard ser of 80 tolas was frequently used in the district, as elsewhere, but there was a local ser based on the thick square lump of copper known as the Gorakhpuri paisa. Its value depreciated and 80 went to the rupee or five to the anna when the usual price then was 6.5 annas or 104 Gorakhpuri paise to the rupee. Four of these pice made a *ganda*, and 28 *gandas* made the local pakka ser, which was equal in weight to 104 prevalent rupees or three-tenths heavier than the standard measure. There was also a local kutcha ser of 14 *gandas* or exactly half the larger measure. A very common weight was the *panseri* (five sers) eight of which made a maund.

The metric system of weights and measures was introduced into the district with effect from october 1, 1960. For the enforcement of the new system, the State Government appointed a senior inspector to be in charge of the work and he works under the supervision of the district supply officer. Every trader has to submit his weights and measures for inspection and every such unit is stamped only if it is found to be accurate. Camps are held in different *mandis* where traders are able to obtain accurate weights and measures. A publicity week is held in the district every year in December, when the new measures to be used are publicised through films, placards, hoardings and pamphlets. Traders are advised to seek the co-operation and guidance of the officials of the department of weights and measures. Many traders still use inaccurate weights and measures and do not conform to the metric system.

## CHAPTER VII COMMUNICATIONS

### Old Time Routes and Rotds

Although there were no recognised highways through the district, in ancient times, there are certain references in ancient texts pertaining to the area now covered by the district having been visited by several learned and royal personages in the Buddhist period. In his narrative, the famous Chinese traveller and Buddhist monk, Huiien Tsang, describes his travels from Benaras (Varanasi) to Ballia via Ghazipur and mentions a place called the Aviddhakarna monastery in the neighbourhood of Ballia, which has been identified by the archaeologist, Cunningham, as Bikapur, a village 6 km. to the east of Ballia.

Even during the mediaeval period (under Muslim rule) no routes from Delhi or Avadh to the east passed through this tract. But some line of communication must have existed during the days of the Sharqi rulers of Jaunpur who ruled this region before the advent of the Mughals.

During Mughal times, several campaigns were undertaken in the provinces of Bihar and Bengal, the army marching to these places via Varanasi and Ghazipur so that they may have touched the border of the district in their march to the east.

On the whole, by 1892, the district was fairly well provided with means of communication, chiefly owing to the railway.

With the exception of those that were metalled, very few of the roads were good and considerable difficulty was experienced in conveying merchandise from the villages to the chief trade centres. The most important unmetalled roads include those running from Ballia to Bairia and Sahatwar, from Sikandarpur to Bairia and to Harnurganj; from Bansdih to Bairia on the Rasra road and from Nagra to Garwar and Ubhaon Turtipar and the Azamgarh border.

The following statement gives the length of each metalled road in the district as in 1907 :

Road	Length (in km.)
Provincial	4.8
Local	
First class metalled roads	92.8
Second class unmetalled roads	22.4
Second class unmetalled roads	54.4
(particularly bridged and drained)	
Other roads	500.8

## Road Transport

In 1947, the district had 190.4 km. of metalled roads, of which 92.8 km. were under the public works department and 97.6 km. under the erstwhile district board (now the Zila Parishad).

During the period from 1947 to 1968, the construction of 395.2 km. of new metalled roads, 41.6 km. of cement concrete roads and the reconstruction of 40 km. of metalled roads was completed by the public works department and the construction of metalled roads, 84.8 km. in length, constructed by voluntary labour, was also taken over by the public works department for maintenance.

The categories of roads in the district are the State highways, major district roads and roads which belong to the local bodies. The public works department maintains the State and district highways and the district board roads have been transferred to it for the purpose. The local bodies and other departments maintain the remaining roads which lie within their jurisdictions.

The two State highways—the Lucknow-Ballia road, the Sonvali-Gorakhpur-Deoria and the Bhagalpur-Ballia road measure about 60 km. each in length.

**Roads Connecting Tahsils**—The roads connecting the tahsils are metalled. They are the Ballia-Bansdih road, Ballia-Bairia-Rewelgang road, Bilthra-Rasra road, Sikandarnur-Bansdih-Reoti-Bairia road, Rasra-Kasimabad road, Rasra-Kotwari road and Bansdih-Sukhpura road. Their total length is 200 km.

**Village Roads**—The village roads of the district are mostly *pakka* and have total length of nearly 290 km.

## Modes of Conveyance

No authentic account is available of the means of transport or conveyance used in the district in early times but it seems that palanquins, horses, ponies, camels, elephants, carts and carriages generally drawn by bullocks and horses were used as means of transport. The rich kept horses and elephants and *ekkas*, *tongas* and bullock carts served the needs of the common people. Two and four-wheeled carriages drawn by one or two horses were also in use in the towns. *Dolis* (litters) or *palkis* (palanquins) were in common use but people in villages depended largely on the bullock carts. With the improvement in roads and the construction of metalled roads (which could be used throughout the year) mechanised transport also began to be used. With the appearance of cycle rickshaws in the urban and even in the rural areas, the number of *ekkas* has decreased. Bicycles, which have been used in the towns for a long time, are now a common sight in the villages. Tractors are used for agricultural purposes but are also unauthorisedly used as a means of transport in rural areas. Boats are used for river traffic and carry passengers, cattle and goods.

In the urban areas vehicles have to be registered with the local bodies which lay down standard rates of fares, though in practice the fare is usually settled between the passenger and the driver of the vehicle and it is generally higher than the standard rate. The following statement gives the number of vehicles of different kinds registered with the municipal boards of the district in 1975-76 :

Type of vehicle	Number of vehicles
Carts	90
Cycle rickshaws	1,190
Cycles	1,694

### Mechanised Vehicular Traffic

Till 1947 motor vehicles, particularly lorries, and trucks were few in number in the district as most of the roads could not carry such heavy traffic. With the development of roads in the last two decades, the number of vehicles has increased and now they frequently ply on the main routes of the district. Consumer goods, agricultural produce, building material and other articles are moved in trucks and lorries, the freight (usually settled by the parties concerned) varying from one to two rupees per km. An average size truck is permitted to carry 74 quintals of weight. Taxies and buses are also available for the transport of passengers.

### U. P. State Road Transport Corporation

The State transport organization, which has been renamed the U.P. State road transport corporation with effect from June 1, 1972, started running passenger buses in the district in 1950, when their number was 5.

With the development and improvement of roads and increasing passenger traffic, the bus services have been expanding and by the 1975 there were 47 buses covering the following 10 routes:

Name of route	No. of buses plying	Approximate length (in km.)
Ballia-ghat	6	34
Ballia-Rasra-Mau Azamgarh	7	116
Ballia-Sikandarpur-Bilthra	15	61
Ballia-Garwa	8	85
Ballia-Garalchpur	2	171
Ballia-Kanpur	2	462
Ballia-Varanasi	1	158
Ballia- Ratsar	2	23
Ballia-Bansdih-Reoti	1	36
Ratsar-Bilthra Road	3	33



In 1975-76 there were 107 vehicles plying on different routes of the district, some details about which are given below :

Type of vehicle	No. of vehicles registered	No. of vehicles
Motor cycles	47	47
Motor cars	3	3
Passenger buses	3	3
Trucks	4	4
Tractors	47	45
Others	3	3
Total	107	105

**Railways** —The main factor in the improvement of the means of transport was the coming of the railways to the district. The first railway line was opened in 1898 and was an extension of that running from Mau to Azamgarh to Turtipar on the Ghaghra. On this branch 25.6 km. lay in the district and there were three railway stations, one each at Sai, Bilhara Road and Kididapur. The line, which was completed in 1903, crossed the Ghaghra at Turtipar. On March 15, 1899, the branch line from Indara (in Azamgarh) was extended to Phephna and the portion from Phephna to Ballia and Chand Diara on the Ghaghra, opposite Revelganj, was completed on May 15 of that year. This line traversed the district from west to east and had stations at Ratanpura, Rasra, Chilkapar, Phephna, Ballia, Bansdih Road, Sahatwar, Reoti, Suremanpur and Chand Diara.

The third rail line runs from Varanasi to Ghazipur and Phephna and passes through Chit Baragaon. This line was completed on March 11 1903.

The railways were nationalised in 1951 and the lines passing through the district were placed under the North Eastern Railway.

The following statement lists the railway stations of the district lying on the North Eastern Railway in 1961 :

Name of railway station	Distance from district headquarters (in km.)
1	2
Ballia	4
Bagarpali	6
Bansdih Road	94
Phephna	11
Chit Baragaon	17

1	2
Reoti	18
Dalchhopea Halt	27
Chilkahar	28
Suremanpur	32
Bakulla	37
Rasra	39
Rajmalpur Halt	46
Ratanpura	52
Haldharpur	61
Kididapur	81
Bilthra Road	94

### TRAVEL FACILITIES

Before the coming of the railways and mechanised transport to the district, journeys were beset with dangers and difficulties and people generally travelled in groups.

### DAK-BUNGALOWS AND INSPECTION HOUSES

The inspection houses, rest houses and dak-bungalows in the district are maintained by different departments of the government and are meant chiefly for the use of their own officers but officers of other departments, members of the public and tourists town has only one dharamsala named the Bishnu dharamsala situated in *mohalla Bishnupur*.

A list of inspection houses, etc., are listed in Statement I at the end of the chapter.

### POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

The first district post-office came into existence in 1880. By 1905, the number of post-offices, including the head post-office, had increased to 28, that of sub-offices to 12 and that of branch offices to 15, the increase being due to the introduction of the various rail connections with the district. As far as possible the mails are now carried by rail, the distribution in the interior being effected by means of runners. The work of the post-offices increased considerably not only in the matter of letters and parcels but also in that of money orders, the introduction of which almost drove the old *hundi* system out of the field.

In 1912, there were 13 sub-offices and 23 branch post-offices. By 1975-76 the numbers had gone up to 45 sub-offices and 229 branch offices.

The dak to the places connected by rail is conveyed by trains. The mails to the places on the government bus routes are conveyed by the buses of the U. P. State road transport corporation and those meant for the interior branch post-offices by foot-post.

## STATEMENT

*Dak bungalows Rest houses, Inspection houses etc.*

Reference Page No- 120

Village/Town	Name	Managing department
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## TAHSIL BALLIA

Ballia town	Public works department Inspection House	Public Works Department
Korantadih	"	"
Bairia village	Dak Bungalow	Zila Parishad
Pachkhora	Inspection House	Irrigation Department
Garwar	"	Irrigation Department
Ballia town	Rest House	Soldiers Board

## TAHSIL BANSDIH

Bansdih town	Inspection House	Irrigation Department
Sikandarpur	"	Zila Parishad

सत्यमेव जयते

## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In 1961, the population of the district was 13,35,863 of which 4,86,136 were workers. A study of the occupational structure of the working population reveals that 1,23,879 persons were engaged in miscellaneous occupations. The break up, according to the census report of 1961, is given below :

Type of occupation	Number of persons employed
1. Live-stock development, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantation development	12,984
2. Mining and quarrying	207
3. Manufacturing	43,772
4. Construction	2,029
5. Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	662
6. Trade and commerce	18,105
7. Transport, storage and communication	3,317
8. Public services	4,888
9. Educational and scientific services	3,811
10. Medical and health services	1,010
11. Religious and welfare services	492
12. Legal services	365
13. Business services	518
14. Recreation services	470
15. Community services and trade and labour	124
16. Personal services	10,142
17. Unspecified services	1,116

The population of the district rose to 15,88,935 by 1971 and the number of workers to 4,43,041.

#### Public Services

With the coming of Independence and the establishment of a national government responsible for increasing employment opportunities at different levels, establishments and activities in the sphere

of public administration, government departments, other sections and local bodies in the district assumed larger dimensions, the number of employees also increasing as a corollary. An idea of the position in the district in 1973 and 1974 may be had from the following table :

Type of establishment	No. of reporting establishments		No. of employees	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
State Government	74	80	12,018	12,279
Quasi-government (Central)	10	12	260	285
Quasi-government (State)	3	3	591	638
Local bodies	14	15	536	529

Dearness allowance is paid to all classes of government employees in the district, the rate varying in accordance with the salaries. Other benefits like provident fund, compulsory insurance and free medical treatment are also available to government servants as well as the employees of the local bodies. State Government servants are allowed to encash a months earned leave, under certain conditions. Other benefits include the granting of advances for purchase of a conveyance and construction or repair of one's own house. Residential accommodation at moderate rent is made available in government housing sectors and a house rent allowance is paid in lieu thereof to the employees. The benefits of non-practising allowance is given to the medical staff holding posts prohibiting private practice. The employees of the district, as every where else in the State, are free to form service associations or unions under the Societies Registration Act XVI of 1860, for their welfare, protection and the betterment of their service conditions. The State employees of the district have joined the joint council or the ministerial employees association which is affiliated to the parent body at the State level. The employees of the local bodies are members of the local authorities employees association and the employees of the State road transport corporation are members of the employees road transport corporation joint council. Both bodies are affiliated to the apex organisation at the State level.

### LEARNED PROFESSIONS

#### Education

Since 1964, the triple benefit scheme has been in force in the district (as elsewhere in the State) in State-aided institutions run by local bodies or private managements. Under this scheme the authority concerned contributes contributory provident fund and pension, including family pension, to teachers. Payment of salaries

to the teacher of those institutions which are on the grant-in-aid list of the State Government, are made through cheques signed by the manager of the institutions concerned and a nominee of the district inspector of schools. The teachers serving in government institutions are entitled to all the benefits available to other employees of the State Government.

Teachers' wards are allowed free education up to the intermediate standard. Disabled and needy teachers can get financial assistance from the national foundation for teachers' welfare fund. Some beds are reserved for teachers suffering from T. B. in the Bhowali sanatorium. Principals and heads of government higher secondary schools and government normal schools and women teachers employed in primary schools in the rural areas are entitled to get residential quarters. The teachers of the district have organised themselves into various associations such as the Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh constituted by the teachers of the higher secondary schools of privately managed institutions and the Prathamik Shikshak Sangh formed by the teachers of the primary and junior high schools of the district. These associations are affiliated to their parent bodies at the State level. The aims of these associations are to protect and promote the service interests of their members.

The district had 3,366 teachers including 243 women as in 1961, the number increasing to 7,313 which included 920 women, in 1975.

The following statement indicates the number of teachers in various types of institutions from the pre-junior Basic to the degree college stage as in 1976 :

Type of institution	Number of teachers		
	Male	Female	Total
Pre-junior Basic schools	—	—	43
Junior Basic schools	3,733	715	4,448
Senior Basic schools	883	98	981
Higher secondary schools and intermediate colleges	1,734	107	1,841
Degree colleges	—	—	232

## Medicine

Before the advent of British rule, the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine were practised in the district by *vaid*s (Ayurvedic physicians) and *hakims* (Unani physicians). After the cession of the area to the British, they introduced the allopathic system of medicine into the district and dispensaries were started with the result that the Ayurvedic and Unani system began to lose ground. In due

course homoeopathy began to be practised and became popular, particularly with the less affluent sections of the people.

In 1961, there were 347 medical practitioners of all systems of medicine and 464 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians in the district. In 1975, the various hospitals and dispensaries had 61 doctors and 73 compounders and nurses.

## Law

This profession attracts new law graduates and a few retired persons possessing a law degree. In 1961, there were 197 legal practitioners and advisers in the district. A legal practitioner usually has one or more *moharrirs* (clerks) depending on the size of the clientele. The State Government appoints district government counsels for criminal, civil and revenue work from among eligible legal practitioners to represent it in the district courts and to lighten their load of work, some advocates are appointed as panel layers.

The practice of law is one of the leading, though overcrowded, professions of the district and lawyers occupy a position of respect. Most of the lawyers practise at the district headquarters, as the important courts are located there. The legal practitioners of the district have organised themselves into a bar association which is a registered body.

The main aims of the association are to safeguard the interest of the legal profession, to achieve a high standard of proficiency among its members, to inspire confident and respect for lawyers among litigants and presiding officers, to safeguard the rights of the citizens as guaranteed under the Indian Constitution, to help in the disposal of cases and to offer suggestions for improvement in the administration of justice. In 1975, there were 3 judges, 6 *mun-sif* magistrates, a chief judicial magistrate, 2 judicial magistrates and about 300 advocates in the district.

## Engineering

Engineering services in the district consist of four branches—the building and roads, irrigation, local self-government engineering and hydel. They have separate divisions for design, survey and construction. In 1975 the Zila Parishad had a civil engineer, 7 assistant engineers, 34 civil junior engineers (overseers who are now designated by this term) and some draftmen and linemen. Several industrial establishments of the district have on their staff qualified engineers and diploma holders.

## DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES

### Domestic Servants

Domestic servants are employed by those who can afford to do so but with the rising cost of living not every family in the district

can engage full time servants and people now prefer to keep part-time servants for domestic work. These servants are usually paid in cash but they occasionally get food as well. They have no security of service and very often they themselves change masters. In 1961, there were 17 housekeepers, cooks and related workers and 283 cooks and cook bearers. There were 1,337 butlers, waiters and maidservants and 24 *ayas* and nursemaids. The number of cleaners, sweepers and watermen was 2,125.

### Barbers.

Barbers still play a significant role in the life of the district, especially in villages, as they render important services on religious and other occasions; such as marriages and deaths, when they are assisted by their women folk as well. Previously they used to act as intermediaries when marriage alliances were negotiated but now this practice has fallen into disuse. A family was also visited by a barber daily or at regular intervals to render various types of service such as shaving the men of the family, etc., but this custom has more or less come to an end and now many barbers have opened their own shops mostly in the towns and no longer move from house to house. Some barbers attend their customers on roadside pavements and save expenditure on keeping up an establishment. In 1961, there were 2,379 barbers, hairdressers and related workers in the district.

### Washermen

The washerman (*dhobi*), still goes from house to house collecting soiled clothes and returning them after they have been washed but he is not the familiar figure he was a few years ago as washing and ironing charges have gone up considerably and people prefer to do their washing themselves. Some washing, laundering and dry cleaning shops have come up in the urban areas and are well patronised due to the prompt and regular delivery of clothes. Conditions in the villages have not undergone these changes and people in the rural areas still wash their clothes themselves. In 1961 there were in the district 4,856 washermen and dry cleaners, launderers and pressers of whom 309 worked in the urban areas.

### Tailors

There are some experienced and trained tailors, in the urban areas of the district who ply their trade in their shops. Big tailors employ a number of workers on monthly or daily wages to assist them in the work. There are few tailors in the rural areas and people do their own sewing and making of simple garments. There were 1,953 tailors in the district in 1961 of whom 298 belonged to the urban areas.

### Other Occupations

In 1961, the number of persons employed in certain other professions was as follows : 2,051 hawkers, peddlers and street vendors;



2,124 dyers and weavers; 1,948 jewellers, goldsmiths and silver-smiths; 1,674 carpenters and pattern makers (wood); 1,194 bricklayers, plasterers and masons; 314 mechanics and repairmen; 4,224 potters and related clay workers; 1,571 bakers, confectioners, candy and sweetmeat makers; 3,170 salesmen and shop assistants; 9,019 fishermen and related workers; 338 *khandsari* (indigenous sugar) and jaggery makers; 4,152 crushers and related workers; 58 log fellers and woodcutters; 2,038 basket weavers and related workers; 5 housekeepers, matrons, stewards (domestic and institutional); 283 cooks and cook bearers; 1,820 drivers of road transport including palanquin bearers; 207 furnacemen and kilnmen; 111 dancers and related workers; 175 sawyers and wood working machinists; 75 stone cutters, stone carvers and stone dressers; 255 ordained religious workers; 24 plumbers and pipe fitters; a jewellery engraver; 3 knitters and lace makers; 16 photographers and related workers; 626 tobacco manufacturers and product market; 41 precision instrument makers, watch and clock makers and repairers; 591 cigarette-machine operators; 21 painters and paper hangers; 177 musicians and related workers; and 105 bleachers, dyers and finishers.



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# CHAPTER IX

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

### LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

#### Workers and Non-workers

In 1961 the percentage of workers and non-workers in the district was 36.4 and 63.6 respectively, the corresponding figures for the State being 39.1 and 60.9 respectively. Of the total workers in the district, cultivators and agricultural labourers comprised 74.5 per cent. Next came those working in household industries and other manufactures who numbered 11.4 per cent, followed by 8.9 per cent engaged in other services and 3.7 per cent in trade and commerce. In other remaining categories the number of workers was small. The extent of female participation in work was 28.7 per cent, the corresponding figure for the State being 22.1 per cent. It was higher in non-agricultural activities (31.4 per cent) than in agricultural (27.7 per cent). It was a little more than 30 per cent in household industry but in no case did it exceed 51 per cent in agricultural pursuits. Most of the females in the agricultural sector worked as agricultural labourers and in household industry in the non agricultural sector.

The total rural population of the district, which was 12,85,622 in 1961, comprised 36.6 per cent workers, the remaining 63.4 per cent being non-workers. The corresponding figures for the urban areas were 30.8 and 69.2 per cent respectively, the proportion of workers being smaller in towns than in villages. Of the total 4,70,653 workers in the rural areas in 1961, cultivators and agricultural labourers were 76.8 per cent and workers in non-agricultural activities 23.2 per cent. There was a preponderance of non-agricultural workers in the urban areas, the percentage being 94.3.

The comparative data of 1961 and 1971 are tabulated below:

Year	Total population	percentage of workers to total population				
		Total no. of workers	Agricultural workers	Non-agricultural	Total workers	
					District	Uttar Pradesh
1961	13,35,863	4,86,136	27.1	9.3	36.4	39.1
1971	15,88,935	4,43,041	23.3	4.6	27.9	

The statement apparently indicates a decrease in the working population reflecting unemployment even amongst the already employed persons of 1961. This anomaly has arisen due to the change in 1971 in the definition of 'worker'. The use of the term was so comprehensive at the 1961 census that a person doing as little as one hour's work in a day was treated as a worker. Accordingly a woman, who mostly attended to household duties, was classified as a worker if she took food to any one working in the fields, tended the cattle or did some such other work. In the census of 1971, a man or woman who was engaged permanently in household duties such as cooking for one's own household, whether helping in the family's economic activities or not was categorised as a part-time worker. This may explain the sudden decline in the number of workers in 1971 in spite of a rise in the population.

At the 1971 census, workers were classified in nine major categories, the basis of the classification being those economic activities which were similar in respect of process, raw materials and products. The details of the nine categories of works in 1971 are as follows :

Category	Total	Male	Female	Percentage of total workers	Percentage of total population
Cultivator	1,93,098	1,84,330	8,528	43.5	12.5
Agricultural labourer	1,71,909	1,19,260	52,649	38.8	10.8
Live-stock developement, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation development orchard development and allied activities	2,707	2,457	250	0.6	0.1
Mining and quarrying	204	193	6	0.4	0.10
Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairing					
(a) Household industry	19,116	15,379	3,737	4.3	1.2
(b) Non-household industry	7,134	6,373	761	1.6	0.4
Construction	1,294	1,286	8	0.2	0.08
Trade and commerce	14,918	14,258	660	3.3	0.9
Transport, storage and communications	2,917	2,894	23	0.6	0.1
Other services	29,744	27,394	2,350	6.7	1.8
Total workers	4,43,894	3,74,069	68,972	—	27.9
Non-workers	11,45,894	4,30,352	7,15,542	—	1.24
Total population	15,88,935	8,04,421	7,84,514	—	100.0

All the non-workers have been grouped together in a single class though at the census they were classified in the following categories :

- (a) Full-time students
- (b) Those attending to household duties
- (c) Dependents and infants
- (d) Retired persons and rentiers
- (e) Persons of independent means
- (f) Beggars and vagrants
- (g) Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions
- (h) Others

#### GENERAL LEVEL OF PRICES AND WAGES

##### Prices

A rise in prices took place in the district shortly after 1860 and the rise continued for a period of about 15 years. Apart from temporary fluctuations caused by variations in the seasons, the prices remained practically stationary or declined somewhat between 1875 and 1885, generally being identical with those obtaining in the districts of Azamgarh and Ghazipur. About the latter year, prices rose to a marked extent throughout northern India, the phenomenon being ascribed to widespread economic causes, among which the fall in the value of silver the development of communications and the growth of export trade figured prominently. Between 1885 and 1895 the rise was sudden at the beginning but became progressive and continued with several occasional fluctuations, the average price of wheat being 15.22 seers, of barley 21.52 seers, of common rice 14.62 seers, of gram 21.47 seers, of maize 21.39 seers and of arhar 20.28 seers to the rupee. The famine of 1897 and the scarcity which prevailed in many parts of India in 1900 had the effect of causing prices in the district to rise, the upward trend not being checked by the subsequent years of prosperity. The figures for the ten years ended 1905 were wheat, 12.62 seers; barley, 18 seers; rice 11.51 seers; gram 17.19 seers and arhar, 12.36 seers for the rupee.

The improvement of communications and the more rapid and cheaper means of transport available about 1900 through the extension of the railways, coupled with the world-wide demand for wheat, made its price independent of that obtaining in the district, as it was no longer governed by the success or failure of the Rabi crop in the district but by the abundance or deficiency of the wheat harvest of the entire country. The general rise in prices throughout the district was probably 50 per cent during the forty years ended 1900. About 1911, normal rates per rupee for the district were reckoned to be 13 seers for wheat, 10 seers for rice, 20.8 seers for gram and 13 seers for dal (*arhar*).

With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, a series of changes in prices, including a considerable rise in the cost of food-grains was witnessed in the succeeding years. As compared to that of 1911, the price level in the district was higher by 36 per cent in 1916 and by 84 per cent in 1928.

A world-wide economic depression started in 1930 and continued with greater severity in the years that followed and had a repercussion on prices in India and on those in the district where, in 1930-31, the rates registered a downward trend, the price levels coming down in 1934 by about 74 per cent and 26 per cent as compared to those prevailing in 1928 and 1916 respectively. By 1939 the prices had registered a rise of nearly 29 per cent over those obtaining in 1934.

After the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, there was a steep rise in prices largely due to speculation and profiteering. Other factors, like the holding back of stocks in anticipation of further shortage, contributed in no small measure to the advancing of the prices to a high level. At the beginning of 1940 price control measures, which had been put into operation on the outbreak of the war, were vigorously enforced by the district authorities.

A district advisory committee was formed in 1942 to find out ways and means of easing the situation. The price control measures that obtained were vigorously enforced which included the fixation of prices (as modified from time to time) the launching of prosecutions to check profiteering and the licensing of food-grain traders. Even then prices continued to go up and in 1944 they registered a rise of 250 per cent over those of 1939.

It was experienced that the effective control of prices was not possible without a corresponding check on supplies. Therefore in January, 1943, partial rationing was introduced, when wheat, rice and certain coarse grains were made available at controlled rates in government shops to cover 25 per cent of the population comprising the poorer sections. Having failed to achieve the desired result, partial rationing was converted into total rationing which meant the closing down of the open market and instituting rationing for every one in 1945. This system remained in force for nearly three years, being discontinued about May, 1948. After the abolition of total rationing, prices started going down but the basic overall shortage reasserted itself and prices soon assumed an upward trend. As the markets would have gone out of control otherwise, definite steps were taken to arrest the rise in prices. People also demanded the restitution of rationing and controls. The government took immediate steps and total rationing was reimposed in the State and so in the district as well. About the middle of 1949, a position which continued till June, 1952, when open markets were restored but the issue of food-grains to ration-card holders continued. Restrictions on the movement of food-grains within the State were also withdrawn and procurement was suspended but food-grains continued to be issued by government shops to arrest the rising trend in prices. Towards the end of 1953, the prices per kg. in the district were about Re 0.54 for wheat, Re 0.28 for gram and Re 0.65 for rice, having tended to come down somewhat. The normal forces of demand and supply once again started adjusting the prices. Neither was the cultivator sure of getting a fixed minimum price for his produce nor was the trader assured of his commission. The uncertainty led to a decline

in prices in the district in 1954 which fell further in 1955—a countrywide trend, which required to be checked to stabilize the economy and to sustain the growth of agriculture. The government, therefore, took measures in 1954 to support agricultural prices and the results were conducive to production. The prices from 1952 to 1955 were as follows :

Year	Prices (per maund in Rs)		
	Wheat	Gram	Rice
1952	18.50	N.A.	21.00
1953	17.50	13.50	23.00
1954	13.75	9.00	14.00
1955	14.00	9.60	14.80

After this the prices began to show an upward trend and continued to do so. The approximate prices from 1970-71 to 1974-75 are given in the following statement :

Year	Average yearly retail price in Rs per kg.		
	Wheat	Gram	Rice
1970-71	1.03	1.05	1.36
1971-72	0.93	0.93	1.22
1972-73	0.99	0.13	1.36
1973-74	1.33	1.68	1.74
1974-75	1.90	2.36	2.50

The retail prices at the headquarters of the district for certain other commodities in 1970 and 1974 were as follows:

Commodity	Prices in Rs per kg.	
	1970-71	1974-75
Gur	0.69	1.77
Sugar	1.83	4.15
Ghee	11.54	18.08
Mustard oil	5.21	10.98
Pulse arhar	1.50	2.87
Firewood	10.19	13.19
		(for 1973-74)
Kerosene oil	0.84	1.15
		(for 1973-74)

### Wages

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century there had been a gradual but considerable increase in the wages of skilled and unskilled labour in the district, the increase in wages being attributable to the rising trend in prices of food-grains but the former wage was scarcely proportionate to the latter and was greater in the case of the skilled artisan rather than that of the unskilled labourer. In 1882, a field labourer got Rs 3.75 per month and common artisan Rs 5.50, while the corresponding figures for 1905 were Rs 4.36 and Rs 11.25 respectively. In 1905 a carpenter or mason got Re 0.50 a day.

The first wage census was carried out in the State in 1906. The results of the survey made at that time and in certain succeeding years are tabulated below :

Year	Wages in Rs per day	
	Unskilled labour	Skilled labour
1906	0.8	0.27
1911	0.9	0.25
1916	0.16	0.40
1928	0.22	0.61
1934	0.14	0.40
1939	0.16	0.43
1944	0.62	1.37

As a result of the First World War, there occurred a marked all round rise in wages (which was noticed in the wage census of 1928). The fall of wages in 1930 and later years was due to the world-wide economic depression, which was reflected in the wage census of 1934. After this wages began to rise and by 1944 those for unskilled and skilled labour had recorded a steep rise which was attributable to the rise in prices because of the repercussions of the Second World War (1939-1945). After this wages did not come down and continued to move upwards. Wages in urban areas also mounted and were slightly higher than those in rural areas and they continued to go up, till by 1965, the daily wage of, an unskilled labourer had increased to Rs 1.50 and that of a skilled labourer to Rs 4.00. In 1970 and 1975 the increase was Rs 2.88 for an unskilled and Rs 6.00 for a skilled labourer and Rs 4.50 for the farmer and Rs 7.50 for the latter respectively.

In 1974, wages for various agricultural occupations such as weeding, reaping, ploughing, etc., were about Rs 2.00 per day for eight working hours.

In 1975, the approximate average wages paid to workers at the district headquarters for certain occupations were as follows:

Type of worker	Period of service	Wages (in Rs)
Chowkidar	Per month	100.00
Gardener	Per month (whole time)	100.00
Herdsman	Per cow per month	4.00
	Per buffalo per month	5.00
Casual labourer	Per day	4.00
Domestic servant	Per month (without food)	75.00
	Per month (with food)	20.00
Woodcutter	Per 40 kg. of wood turned into fuel	1.00
Carpenter	Per day	9.00
Midwife	For delivering a boy	5.00
	For a girl	3.00
Barber	Per shave	0.30
	Per hair-cut	0.75
Scavenger	Per month for a house with one lavatory for one cleaning per day	6.00
Motor driver	Per month	250.00
Truck driver	Per month	300.00

#### GENERAL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT

##### Employment Trends

From 1970 to 1974 there was a considerable increase in the number of persons employed in the public sector but there was an erratic trend in the private sector. The statement that follows



gives some information about the trend of employment in the district during the five years ended 1974 in a few selected establishments that were made the subject of an enquiry conducted by the employment exchange authorities :

Year	No. of establishments			No. of employees		
	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
1970	102	81	183	2,995	12,524	14,519
1971	103	83	186	3,058	12,441	15,446
1972	106	82	188	3,191	13,063	16,254
1973	113	101	214	3,371	13,405	16,776
1974	125	110	235	3,350	13,731	17,081

The categories of work and the numbers engaged in the relevant occupations in 1973 and 1974 are set out in the following table :

Nature of activity	No. of reporting establishments		No. of employees					
			1973			1974		
	1973	1974	Private sector	Public sector	Total	Private sector	Public sector	Total
Agriculture, live-stock development, forestry, fishing and hunting	3	3	—	536	536	—	502	502
Manufacturing	14	14	332	—	332	309	—	309
Construction	11	11	30	1,683	1,713	19	1,659	1,678
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	3	3	—	723	723	—	767	767
Trade and commerce	24	29	163	277	440	171	332	503
Transport, storage and communication	1	1	14	—	14	14	—	14
Services (public, legal medical, etc.)	158	174	2,832	10,186	13,018	3,037	9,491	12,528

## Employment of Women

The extent of the employment of women workers is indicated in the following statement which shows their number in the private and public sectors during the quarter ended December, 1974 :

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Number of reporting establishments	235
Number of women employees in public sector	1,484
Number of women employees in private sector	100
Total number of women employees	1,584
Percentage of women employees in private sector of total employees in that sector	10.8%
Percentage of women employees in public sector of total employees in that sector	2.9%

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The proportion of women workers in educational services was 69.6 per cent, in medical 18.0 per cent and in public health 5.3 per cent, the remaining 7.1 per cent being employed in other types of service.

## Unemployment Trends

The number of men and women (as well as their educational attainments) who sought employment in different spheres as on December 31, 1974, was as follows :

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Educational standard	Men	Women	Total
Post-graduate	140	7	147
Graduate	1,256	15	1,271
Intermediate	2,849	12	2,861
High school	2,856	41	2,897
Below high school	3,259	226	3,485

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In December, 1974, the employment exchange was required to recommend candidates for 73 posts, the Central Government needing 4 candidates, the State Government 58, the local bodies 2 and the private sector 9.

The district experienced a shortage of stenographers (Hindi and English) and technical hands. Persons without previous experience and technical training were available in large numbers.

## Employment Exchange

The Ballia employment exchange was established in 1959 to provide assistance to the unemployed and the employers of the district in finding suitable jobs and suitable candidates for jobs respectively. The following statement gives an idea of the assistance rendered by the employment exchange from 1970 to 1974 :

Year	Vacancies notified by employers	Number of persons registered for employment	Number on 'live' register	Number of persons provided with employment
1970	509	8,334	4,293	354
1971	872	9,096	5,134	525
1972	645	10,372	9,489	549
1973	923	14,420	13,825	658
1974	391	11,202	10,661	238

The employment market information scheme has been functioning in the exchange since 1961. Under it an intensive study is carried out to ascertain the number of persons employed, the vacancies existing, the types of jobs for which qualified candidates are not available and other allied information during the previous quarter in public undertakings.

## NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When the Indian National Congress took up office in some of the provinces of the country in 1937, a scheme for rural development was initiated by it and was adopted in certain villages of the district. It was gradually expanded and a rural development association was formed at the district level which had a non-official chairman and the subdivisional magistrate as secretary. The function of the association was more or less advisory in nature and the subjects covered were rural hygiene, construction of roads, establishment of libraries, construction of panchayat ghars, holding of night classes for adults and allied developmental activities. With the government going out of office in 1939, the rural development programme suffered heavily. In 1946, the rural development department was merged in co-operative development, the rural development association being replaced by the district development association with a non-official as chairman and the district co-operative officer as secretary. In 1951, the district planning committee, with the district magistrate as chairman and the district planning officer as secretary, replaced the district development association. It had a number of subcommittees for the preparation and execution of the Five-year Plan schemes and

projects but its role continued to be advisory. The district was divided into development blocks which were the units of operation for the implementation of the Plan programmes of each department. The First Five-year Plan started functioning from April, 1951, with the main objectives of raising the standard of living of the people and for providing opportunities for a wider and more varied life. Efforts were therefore made in the district to improve agricultural practices and to develop the village community through national extensive service schemes and the people's participation in different activities. Making of earthworks of buildings and village roads, digging of soak pits, etc., was done by voluntary labour (*shramdam*). Improved methods of agriculture and the use of compost were also introduced and tube-wells and other means of irrigation were augmented.

Ratanpura was the first community development block of the district which was opened on October 2, 1952, followed by Garwar on January 26, 1955.

The scope of the Second Five-year Plan (1956-61) was enlarged to include industrialisation with stress on the development of heavy industries and on the enlargement of the scope of the public sector. The aim was to increase the national income and to reduce unemployment. As a result, in the field of agriculture, schemes relating to the Japanese method of paddy cultivation U.P. method of wheat cultivation and expansion of training in the use of agricultural implements and of chemical and green manures, were taken up in the district. The whole district was divided into 18 development blocks for the implementation of the Plan schemes.

In 1957, the Antaram Zila Parishad, the precursor of the present Zila Parishad, was formed by amalgamating the district planning committee and the district board. For the co-ordinated execution of the different Plan schemes, the resources of agriculture, co-operative, animal husbandry, Panchayat Raj and some other departments like health, plant protection, etc. (called the Plan departments) were pooled and put under the control of the district planning officer.

During the Third Plan period (1961-66), a three-tier structure of rural self-governing bodies was set up with effect from December 1, 1963, to ensure progress in the people's planning and development programmes. Now the village panchayats function at the village level, the *kshettra samitis* at the development block (*ksheitra*) level and the Zila Parishad at the district level. The *kshettra samiti* is responsible for all the development activities within a block. The block development officer is the executive officer of the *kshettra samiti* and looks after the development activities in his block. He is assisted by assistant development officers for agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operative, panchayats, etc. At the village level, there is a multipurpose worker designated *gram sevak* (village level worker) to work for all the development departments. The district has 18 development blocks, some details about which are given below

Tahsil	Name of block	Date of inauguration	Number of		Population as in 1971 (in thousands)
			Gaon Sabhas	Nyaya panchayats	
Rasra	Ratanpura	2.10.52	74	11	79
	Rasra	1.4.56	78	12	104
	Nagra	1.7.57	110	16	123
	Slar	1.7.57	102	15	119
	Chilkahar	1.6.61	70	10	86
Ballia	Murli chhapara	1.10.62	25	5	76
	Bairia	1.4.58	34	8	102
	Belhari	1.4.62	37	7	71
	Dubhand	1.4.62	59	9	78
	Hanumanganj	1.10.59	62	9	82
	Garwar	26.1.55	71	11	79
	Sohaon	1.7.57	53	8	89
	Bansdih	2.10.56	51	10	81
Bansdih	Beruavibari	2.10.55	36	7	52
	Maniar	1.4.60	49	9	77
	Pandah	1.10.61	54	9	71
	Nawanagar	1.10.60	60	10	86
	Reoti	1.10.62	50	8	87

The Third Five-year Plan, unlike the previous ones, aimed mainly at reducing the disparity in the economic and social life of the people and giving a minimum level of living to every family. The programme of introducing intensive methods of cultivation, leading to a self-reliant and self-generating economy, was taken up. Some special programmes such as those related to the use of improved variety of seeds, particularly of those producing "dwarf" plants and crop protection measures were also taken in hand. The process of planning and development had to be retarded during this plan period because of the Chinese Aggression of 1962.

The next three years, from April, 1966, to March, 1969, did not form a part of the next Five-year Plan period but yearly plans for these years were formulated with the following broad objectives for each district :

- (i) a growth rate of 5 per cent in the agricultural sector and 8 to 10 per cent in industry
- (ii) an annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent in production of food-grains to achieve self sufficiency
- (iii) to maximise employment opportunities
- (iv) to redress imbalances arising from a high rate of population growth and adequate expansion in agricultural production by reducing the fertility rate of the population to 25 per thousand in the shortest time possible.

The Fourth Five-year Plan (1969-74) sought to enlarge the income of the rural population and to achieve self reliance in agriculture and industry. Consequently small, new industrial units were established in the district and increased facilities were envisaged for sanitation, transport and health services, with special emphasis on improving the conditions of the backward sections of the people and the granting of subsidies to them for starting small crafts, etc. The progress of these schemes received a set back because of the Indo-Pakistan Conflict of 1971.

The Five-year Plan programmes of the district are an integral part of the State Plans and they broadly reflect the same priorities. The implementation of various development Plan schemes has to some extent helped in the growth of agricultural production, power generation and consumption, industrial development, irrigation and road transport. The planned efforts have also resulted in raising the standard of living to some extent, providing better wages and living conditions and helping the general economic growth of the district.



## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The district of Ballia is the easternmost of the five which constitute the Varanasi Division of the State and comprises an irregularly shaped tract extending westwards from the confluence of the Ganga and Ghaghra.

#### Commissioner

The headquarters of the Divisional Commissioner, who functions as a vital link between the administration of the district and the government, is at Varanasi. He controls, guides and advises district and regional-level officers, solves inter-department problems and assesses the performance of officers of various departments stationed in his Division. On the judicial side, his jurisdiction extends to hearing appeals and revisions under the Land Revenue Act, 1901, the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950, and other enactments like the U.P. Arms Act, 1959. He is the chairman of the regional transport authority and exercises powers of supervision over the Zila Parishad, municipal boards and other local bodies.

#### District Officer

The district is in the charge of a district magistrate and collector who is subject to the control of the commissioner of the Division. Usually, a member of the Indian Administrative Service and occasionally an officer of the U. P. Civil Service (executive branch), the district officer controls the general administration of the district. He combines in himself the functions of a magistrate and collector, appointed under the Code of Criminal Procedure and the U.P. Land Revenue Act, 1901, respectively. In his capacity as head of the civil and criminal administration in the district, acts as the principal co-ordinator between the functionaries of various departments represented in the district. Maintenance of law and order, enforcement of various laws, rules and regulations and miscellaneous government orders, release of prisoners, appraisal of public opinion and avoidance of explosive situations, are some of the important duties assigned to him as district magistrate and it is in their performance that he comes in close touch with the police who follow his instructions. He is the licensing authority for possession of arms and ammunition. He is assisted in his work by an additional district magistrate (ceiling and executive), a sub-divisional officer/magistrate (Ballia), special land acquisition officer and sub-divisional officers, each posted at his headquarters. A district finance and revenue officer has also been posted to assist the district officer.

As collector he is responsible for the recovery of land revenue and other government dues and the maintenance of up to date records of rights. Surveys, record operations, revenue Settlement, resumption and acquisition of land, rehabilitation of displaced persons, distribution of relief on calamitous occasions, etc., are some other subjects dealt with by him as principal revenue officer of the district. It is also his responsibility to recommend suspension and remission of land revenue whenever he considers it necessary. As *ex officio* district deputy director consolidation he also supervises the work of the consolidation of holdings and hears revisions under the Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953. The district treasury, under a treasury officer, is also in his overall charge. He is expected to tour every year for a long duration, particularly in the interior of the district. He visits each tahsil during the rainy season and in winter to acquaint himself with the condition of the agriculturists and to watch the implementation of development schemes.

Necessary certification in respect of the claimants to old age or political pensions, payment of compensation under the Workman's Compensation Act, 1923, in case of accidents causing disability (total or partial) combating strikes and solving other labour problems, extending of visas, management of estates owned by the government and *nazul* property, supervision of the conduct of civil suits in which the State is a party are also some of his manifold duties. The district officer acts as the chief protocol officer in the district. He has also to ensure the equitable distribution of food-grains and other essential commodities through fair-price shops, with the help of the district supply officer. He is *ex officio* district election officer and *ex officio* president of the district soldiers', sailors', and airmen's board.

The multifarious role of the district officer makes him responsible for the successful implementation of projects and schemes which are introduced by the government from time to time and relate to the general welfare of the people. Census activities, Van Mahotsava programmes, wild life preservation, securing investments under the national saving schemes, raising of loans for the State Government and augmenting the sale of State lottery tickets are among some of his other functions.

He is also the pivot of the planning set up in the district. For the intensive social and economic development of the district, he is assisted by a district development officer at the district level and the block development officers at the block levels.

For effective revenue and general administration, the district is divided into three tahsils or subdivisions—those of Ballia, Rasra and Bansdih, each of which comprises a tahsil of the same name respectively. The Ballia tahsil consists of the parganas of Ballia, Doaba, Garha and Kopachit East, the Rasra is made up of the four parganas of Kopachit West, Lakhnesar, Sikandarpur West and Bhadaon and the Bansdih tahsil has two parganas—Kharid and Sikandarpur East. Each subdivision is under the charge of a



deputy collector (designated as subdivisional officer/magistrate) who belongs to the U. P. Civil Service. The deputy collector's revenue, executive and magisterial duties are similar to those of the district officer though confined to their own subdivisions. Since June, 1975, these officers are required to reside at their tahsil headquarters.

Every tahsil is in the immediate charge of a resident tahsildar who acts as a magistrate in addition to being an assistant collector and presides at his tahsil office and court. His main duties include the collection of government dues, upkeep of land records, maintenance of law and order, disposal of revenue cases and the follow up of public welfare programmes. He is also called out for relief operations as and when necessary. Each tahsildar is also the officer in charge of the tahsil subtreasury under him.

As head of the criminal administration, the district magistrate controls, guides and supervises the district police through the superintendent of police who heads the police organisation of the district which is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. The superintendent of police is in overall charge of the police force and is responsible for its efficiency, discipline and the proper performance of duties by it. He is assisted by three deputy superintendents and a large number of subordinate officers.

The judicial organisation of the district is headed by the district and sessions judge with headquarters at Ballia under the jurisdiction of the high court of judicature at Allahabad. He is the highest authority in the district for the administration of justice in civil and criminal matters. He was also the district registrar and exercised powers vested under the Indian Registration Act, 1908, but the government has conferred the powers of district registrar on an additional district magistrate (Finance and Revenue).

#### **Other District Level Officers**

The following are the other district level officers, each being responsible to his head of department :

- District Panchayat Raj Officer
- Assistant Regional Transport Officer
- Assistant Regional Transport Officers
- District Harijan and Social Welfare Officer
- District Probation Officer
- District Statistics Officer
- Sales Tax Officer
- Basic Shiksha Adhikari
- District Inspector of Schools
- Chief Medical Officer
- District Agriculture Officer
- District Horticulture Officer
- District Cane Officer

District Live-stock Officer  
District Plant Protection Officer  
District Soil Conservation Officer  
Assistant Engineer, Lift Canal  
Assistant Engineer, Minor Irrigation  
Executive Engineer, Flood  
Executive Engineer, Irrigation  
Executive Engineer, Tube-well  
Superintending Engineer, Irrigation  
District Industries Officer  
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department

#### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

##### Income-tax Department

The income-tax office, Ballia, works under the administrative control of the commissioner of income-tax, Allahabad, under the charge of an income-tax officer. There is an income-tax inspector to assist the income-tax officer. The appellate authority is the appellate assistant commissioner of income-tax, Gorakhpur.

##### Indian Post and Telegraph Department

Ballia is the divisional headquarters of the Ballia postal division which comprises Ballia district only. It is administered by the superintendent of post-offices. He is assisted by an assistant superintendent and others. There is a head post-office in the town of Ballia, the number of subpost-offices being 45 and that of branch post-offices 229.

##### Central Excise Department

The district is in the charge of an assistant collector of central excise with headquarters at Varanasi and is divided into three excise ranges—Ballia (town); tahsil Ballia (rural) the ranges is headed by an inspector.

# CHAPTER XI

## REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

### LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The fiscal history of the region covered by the present district of Ballia can be traced back to very early times, when it formed part of the Kosala kingdom, an early Aryan settlement<sup>1</sup>. Though there was no regular system of revenue administration, the king used to receive tribute in return for ensuring the protection of the life and property of the subjects and maintaining the machinery of administration. The tribute was usually paid in kind in the form of food-grains and other necessities of life<sup>2</sup>. The tract, which formed part of the domains of the Mauryas, the Guptas and Harshavardhan in turn, in all probability followed the same system, the ownership of land vesting in the State and the subjects paying a portion of their produce to the ruling authority. According to the *Smritis* (law books) the land tax (or revenue) taken by the ruler seems to have varied from one-third to one-sixth<sup>3</sup>. In addition to land tax, duties on the sale of goods and extra cesses for special purposes were also levied by the ruler<sup>4</sup>.

References to this region are to be found in contemporary records of early Muslim times<sup>5</sup>. It seems that these rulers adopted the system that was in vogue<sup>6</sup> from earlier times except that perhaps the proportion of the revenue was increased. For the greater part of the 15th century, this region was included in the Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur and was in the charge of a governor of the Sharqi sultans. In 1474, Bahlul Lodi defeated Husain Shah, the Sharqi ruler and the last king of Jaunpur and the district once again passed into the hands of the Delhi sultan<sup>7</sup>. In 1493, the district was affected by an extensive Hindu rebellion<sup>8</sup> which might have disturbed the system of revenue collection.

The system might have been improved during the reign of Akbar, the fiscal records of whose reign as furnished in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, make available a certain amount of information regarding

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1 Majumdar, R.C., Raychaudhuri, H.C. and Datta, K. : *An Advanced History of India*, p. 41

2 Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalker, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. I, pp. 358, 437

3 Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalker, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. II, p. 330

4 Majumdar, Raychaudhuri and Datta, op. cit., p. 104

5 Nevill, H.R. : *Ballia--A Gazetteer*, p. 142

6 Moreland, W.H. : *The Agrarian System of Moslem India*, p. 1

7 Haig, W. : *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III, p. 233

8 Nevill, op. cit., p. 143

the distic The principles on which the system was based were broadly the correct measurement of the land and of the cultivated area the classification of the soil, the calculation of the average yield and the assessment of the revenue in terms of the average price of the produce<sup>1</sup>

From the *Ain-i-Akbari* it appears that the district lay partly in the sirkar of Ghazipur, the remainder, with the exception of Doaba, belonging to Jaunpur. Both these sirkars were included in the subah or province of Allahabad, while Doaba was not a separate pargana but formed merely a portion of Fatehpur Bihia in sirkar Rohtas of the Bihar province. During the days of Akbar the landlords of the district paid a revenue of 1,55,000 dams on a cultivated area of 80,200 acres, a demand that was extremely high. In the sirkar of Ghazipur were the four *mahals* of Ballia, Kopachit, Lakhnesar and Garha. Ballia had a cultivated area of 28,345 bighas and paid 12,50,000 dams of revenue. In Kopachit there were 19,267 bighas under cultivation and the revenue was 9,42,190 dams. In Lakhnesar 2,883 bighas were cultivated and the revenue was 1,26,636 dams. Garha was assessed at 5,00,000 dams, the land under cultivation being 10,049 bighas. In the sirkar of Jaunpur were three *mahals* or parganas : Kharid, which had a cultivated area of 30,915 bighas and paid a revenue of 14,45,743 dams ; Sikandarnur the revenue demand of which was 17,06,417 dams on 32,574 bighas of cultivation; and the small *mahal* of Bhadaon which had 4,300 bighas under tillage and paid a revenue of 2,29,315 dams, the revenue paid by Doaba is not known.<sup>2</sup>

The system appears to have continued in practice till about the close of the first quarter of the eighteenth century. About 1719, the district together with the rest of the Jaunpur and Ghazipur sirkars as well as Benaras (Varanasi) and Chunar, had been given to Murtaza Khan by the emperor of Delhi, who seems to have done no more than collect the revenue and that with varying success.<sup>3</sup> Saadat Khan became the nawab vizier of Avadh in 1722 and in 1728 obtained from Murtaza Khan the lease of four sirkars for an annual payment of seven lakhs of rupees,<sup>4</sup> from when Ballia ceased to be subject directly to the imperial administration. Saadat Khan in turn leased the charge to Mir Rustam Ali for eight lakhs of rupees who experienced considerable difficulty in subduing the turbulent Rajputs of Ballia and in compelling them to pay their revenue<sup>5</sup>. Rustam Ali began to depend a good deal on his deputies, the chief among whom was Mansa Ram, a big zamindar of Gangapur (in the Varanasi district) and the founder

1 Moreland. *op. cit.*, pp. 92-106

2 Jarrett, H. S. (Tr) : *Ain-i-Akbari*, pp. 172-74. Nevill, *op. cit.* pp. 146-49

3 Srivastava A.L. : *Awadh ke Pratham do Nawab* (Hindi translation of the *First Two Nawabs of Awadh*), p. 47.

4 *Ibid.* Oldham, W. : *Historical and Statistical Memories of the Ghazipur District*, Part I, pp. 88-89

5 *Ibid.*, p. 89

of the Benares estate. He virtually became the ruler of three sirkars-Benares (Varanasi), Jaunpur and Chunar, obtaining for himself the *amildari* of these sirkars.<sup>1</sup> After his death his more famous son, Balwant Singh, obtained a sanad in 1739 from the emperor, Muhammad Shah, who conferred the title of raja upon him.<sup>2</sup> Baiwan Singh leased Ghazipur on an annual rent of three lakhs to Sheikh Abdullah, a resident of the district, who died in 1744. As his sons could not maintain it, it was again made over to Balwant Singh in 1761 at an annual revenue of eight lakhs. From this time onward the district remained a part of the territories held by the raja<sup>3</sup> who began to eject the Hindu and Muslim zamindars, the entire district being placed in the charge of *amils* on annual leases. Thus the *amils* became the actual administrators and were responsible only to the raja for the revenue. The *amils* took engagements direct from the cultivators and paid the raja a lump sum on account of a pargana or group of parganas. The system was known by various names such as *kachcha*, *kham*, *khas* or *amari*. The more definite account of the fiscal history of the district begins from 1775 with the assumption of its control by the British of the province of Benares of which the major part of the district formed a part.<sup>4</sup> The change in sovereignty did not affect the administration of revenue as it continued to remain under the supervision of the raja and the system of *amildars* also continued to be maintained in its entirety.<sup>5</sup> Annual settlements were made by the *amils* in each pargana. They were required to pay the amount which was fixed beforehand by competition but they used to raise as much as they could by agreements with the zamindars and in case of non-compliance, with the farmers themselves. Though settlement for collection were sometimes made with outsiders, as far as possible it was the old proprietors who were engaged for this work as they were the most suitable for this type of collection. The arrangement was not just or equitable as it was not possible to safeguard the interests of the cultivators<sup>6</sup> and proved a failure. Large tracts of fertile land had become waste due to the famines of 1873-74 and 1877-78 and bad management.<sup>7</sup> No significant alteration in policy was adopted till the days of Jonathan Duncan who was appointed Resident of Benares in 1787. His first action was to abolish the office of the deputy and to restore full plenary power to the raja but the experiment failed as the Settlement of 1787-88 made by the raja through the *amils* broke down. Duncan abolished the system of competition between the *amils* and introduced a regular Settlement based on the ascertained collections of previous years. In order to prevent further exactions, all additional cesses were abolished. A universal form of lease for

1 Srivastava, *op. cit.*, p. 203

2 *Ibid.*

3 Oldham, *op. cit.*, part I, pp. 91-92

4 Eitchison, C. U. : *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries*, Vol. II, p. 88

5 Nevil, *op. cit.*, pp. 152-53. *Report of the United Provinces Zamindari Abolition Committee*, Vol. I, P. 92.

6 *Ibid.*, p. 112

7 *Ibid.*, pp. 44-45

each cultivator was granted on the condition that the rates of rent were not to be increased beyond those prevailing in 1179. The raja opposed the scheme vehemently but the Resident refused to yield and himself assumed the management of the Settlement and the revenue administration. The delay caused by the raja's objections left no time to implement the survey originally contemplated and Duncan was obliged to depend on the estimates submitted by the *qanungos* for the purpose of assessment.

### Permanent Settlement of 1788-89

The Settlement was made on the lines of those of Bihar and the greater part of lower Bengal. The demand assessed in 1789 was at first sanctioned for four years and then for ten years. By now the *amils* had become mere collectors. In 1792 the assessment was declared to be perpetual for the lifetime of all lease holders and in 1795, under Regulations I, II and XVII of 1795, it was declared permanent for ever. The main feature of the Settlement was that instead of the putting the parganas up to auction, the revenue payable by each village in a pargana was ascertained first and the aggregate assessment of the component *mahal* was taken as the demand minus ten per cent as the *amil's* profit and the banker's due as 12 annas per cent. The old methods of illegal extortion was replaced by a regular demand by the Resident and his agents. The Settlement marked the creation of proprietary rights. The *amils* now had to follow the rules issued for implementation.

The idea of proprietary right in perpetuity or a permanent Settlement was new to the landowners and as many refused to engage, the land was given in farm on a temporary Settlement to others. In the absence of the record of rights or any register of proprietary holdings, leases signifying the demand and other conditions could not be given to the zamindars. Actually they were given to persons called *lambardars* who undertook the engagements but all the interested parties were not included as the proprietary right was vested in the whole body of zamindars and *pattidars*. This brought about the separation of local areas and the subdivision of joint villages. The process usually proved difficult in the absence of any authoritative records. Many disputes arose, as the distribution of the proprietary interest on the basis of actual possession was something different from a division into shares according to genealogy. As the rules of assessment could not be followed in pargana Lakhnesar, the amount of revenue fixed in the lump by Balwant Singh remained unaltered. No attempt was made to define the interest held by many co-shares. Settlements were made in parganas Kopachit, Ballia, Garha, Kharid and Sikandar-pur. Pargana Doaba was not settled till 1793 being assessed at first for ten years and then for ever. Any enhancement was discouraged and a fixed demand was to remain unaltered. The result was that the revenue demand became inadequate. For instance, in *taluka* Sincahi, the customary assessment was a gold *mohar* per *mauza* or only Rs 304 for the whole estate. The revenue of the district was Rs 5.74 212 which remained unchanged but considerable additions were made subsequently due to the

resumption of revenue-free grants; the Settlement of newly formed alluvial areas and the transfer of some lands from Bengal due to the erratic action of the Ganga and of the Ghaghra.

In 1840, the system of farming was finally abandoned and a fresh assessment, generally resulting in an increased demand, was made with the zamindars at the time of the revision of records.

In a short time the permanent Settlement ran into serious trouble. The absence of any survey, classification of the status of cultivators, attempt to define proprietary rights and the definition of boundaries, created many disputes between the *patidars* on the question of possession. Other quarrels arose as a result of taking engagements from the *lambardars* as it was soon realised that though they did not fully represent proprietary interests, their status gave them undue advantage. Engagements were taken from two or three representatives, who alone were considered proprietors of the estates actually held by a large body of co-sharers. This resulted in much injustice, the right of this large body of co-sharers often being sacrificed to the mistakes of the few. Another feature was that the engagement was made by *mahals* which often included groups of villages but the responsibility for the demand rested with one or two proprietors representing the landowners. The Settlement did not provide any remedy for the injustice caused in many cases such as that of pargana Lakhnesar in which the leading families appropriated the zamindari rights and the weaker members were reduced to the position of merely being tenants of their sir holdings. The rigid system of collection caused trouble in many instances. When a proprietor fell into arrears, his land was put to sale but in many cases the purchaser was unable to obtain possession. An attempt was made by Regulation VIII of 1800 to remove these defects by preparing a register giving the names of the estates, the proprietors, the villagers and the sharers held by each, the gross rental and the details of the measurement of the land held. But this proved of no use as by 'proprietors' was meant only the *lambardars* of the permanent Settlement and no records of areas and holdings were in existence. In 1808, the *amils* became *tahsildars* on fixed salaries with orders to collect only from the *lambardars*. The duties of *Patwars* were defined by Regulation X of 1817. They were directed to submit returns twice a year giving the produce of each harvest, the names of tenants and the areas held by them. A survey, which supplied standard village maps and made it possible to put an end to a number of boundary disputes, was undertaken. Sikandarpur and Bhadoi (then in Azamgarh district) were dealt with in 1837 and in 1847, a further revision being made in these two parganas and the Settlements in some alluvial lands readjusted. The records were fairly accurate, except in the case of pargana Lakhnesar, where they proved practically useless. The record of rights comprised the *khasra*, giving every field a number, its length, breadth and area, the name of the cultivator and the crop, the *khatarni* showing the arrangement of the various holdings by patts and tenures, the *kherwad* giving the record of proprietary shares and the *wajid-ul-arz* giving a brief

account of the fiscal history and of village customs. Another disadvantage was the inaccuracy resulting from the rough system of obtaining areas and much of the advantage derived from the work was rendered useless by the failure to maintain records carefully in after years.

### **The Revision Settlement of 1866**

A partial revision was undertaken between 1866 and 1868 of 430 villages and village papers were prepared for the Lakhnesar pargana, for which no records of any sort existed. As it was carried out only on behalf of those landholders who agreed to pay the cost, it was not authoritative.

The survey in parganas Bhadon and Sikandarpur took place between 1874 and 1877, the report on the revision being completed in 1880 and included in the Azamgarh Settlement, though the parganas had by this time been transferred to Ballia.

### **The Revision Settlement of 1880-85**

A regular revision was found to be necessary and Settlement operations began in 1880 and were completed in 1885. A cadastral survey was carried out, field maps were prepared and the compilation of the records, including the records of 1840, was commenced and a distribution of the revenue was affected in each *mauza*.

The undertaking proved both arduous and costly but this was rendered unavoidable because of the many small subdivisions that existed and the small size of the fields. In Lakhnesar and Kharid the incorrectness of farmer records caused great difficulty. The Settlement resulted in a great deal of litigation in the district.

In revising the records no alteration was made in the revenue as fixed at the permanent Settlement but at the same time a considerable increase was obtained in the total demand as the result of the assessment in the temporarily settled tracts which had been added to the district by the action of the great rivers and also by that of lapsed revenue-free holdings of former days. It was found that the Ghazipur portion of the district yielded some Rs. 2,62,000 more than the areas governed by the permanent Settlement while in the Azamgarh parganas of the district an additional Rs. 1,60,000 was realised.

### **The Revision Settlement of 1905**

The last revision was made in 1905, the total demand for the district being Rs. 93,337.

Though no change was made in the revenue as fixed at the permanent Settlement a considerable increase accrued in the total demand as a result of the revenue realised from the tracts added temporarily to the district by the action of the big rivers and from that realised from lapsed revenue-free holdings, which were



now reassessed. The demand of the portion of the district which formed part of Ghazipur yielded Rs 2,62,000 more than that of the permanent Settlement. The Settlement also suffered from inequality as in Lakhnesar the combined resistance of the Sengar community obtained for itself the low rate of eight annas per bigha of cultivation.

### Alluvial Mahals

Though the assessment was made perpetual under the permanent Settlement, those culturable tracts that were made alluvial by the action of the Ghaghra and the Ganga, were assessed temporarily, causing fluctuations in the revenue realised. The area of these *mahals* changed after each annual flood and they were assessed temporarily, the Settlement being made by degrees. The *mahals* along the Ganga were also affected but only gradually by its action (which affected a large area). It sometimes eroded the land and sometimes added fresh deposits of alluvial land. Islands were also often formed by the action of the river some of which were attached to some villages of the district in course of time. It was often difficult to decide whether the land was to be treated as an accretion or as a reformation. As regarded local custom, except in case of sudden change, the deep-stream rule prevailed but in Doaba there was a peculiar rule which affected only the lands along the Ganga facing pargana Bihia (in the adjoining province of Bengal). About 1905 there were 171 Ghaghra alluvial *mahals* including five in Sikandarpur East, 11 in Kharid and one in Doaba. Here the Settlement in these *mahals* was made quinquennially, the last being the fifth that took place in 1882. The Settlement was temporary and no record was maintained of the permanent alluvial *mahals*. A list of the villages bordering on the river was prepared and in case of erosion the revenue was suspended in whole or in part. In 1905 the same action was taken in one village of Sikandarpur West and in seven of Kharid the *mahals* where temporary land was added due to the action of the rivers were inspected and subjected to revision annually.

Alluvial lands along the Ganga consisted of two *mahals* in pargana Ballia, four in Doaba and four in Garha. They were temporarily settled and treated like those bordering the Ghaghra. The total revenue demand of these *mahals* was Rs 32,386 in 1905. In 38 eroded *mahals* of Ballia, the payment of revenue was stopped and they were inspected yearly. The Ganga affected much more valuable land than did the Ghaghra. The deep stream rule prevailed and land diluviated on this side and reformed in Shahabad was settled in the Ballia district where both banks belonged to the Dumraon estate. The difficulty was about the tenants' rights which resulted in litigation. Doaba being only a part of Bihia in Shahabad, the deep-stream rule was ignored in its case. The proprietary right was determined by reference to the village site and not to the river channel. If a village was flooded and after some time the site emerged on the opposite bank, the village was demarcated a fresh on that bank. By a special agreement the permanent revenue demand remained unchanged permanently.

in pargana Ballia as well as in Doaba. But the agreement had no effect where the proprietary right was divided.

### Cesses

In addition to the land revenue, the cesses raised in the district were the same as those levied throughout the permanently settled area of the Varanasi Division. The *Patwari* rate of two per cent, was levied in 1889 for 15 years on the annual value of each estate but this cess was abolished in 1906. The *acrage* cess was levied under Act XVIII of 1871 which was replaced by Act III of 1878 in order to meet the expenses for famine relief. The Act also allowed the reservation of a portion of the cess for the improvement of the welfare of the district. The rate was assessed at two annas per acre of cultivation the amount being determined for ten years.

The other cesses were purely local. The road cess was levied at the rate of one per cent on the revenue for the maintenance of roads. It was made obligatory on the zamindars to provide for the village watchman. With the abolition of zamindari in the district, the local rate (cess) became a part of the land revenue payable by each *bhumidhar* or *sirdar*.

**Collection of Land Revenue**—Prior to the abolition of the zamindari system, rent was collected by intermediaries and the revenue was paid by them to government. After the abolition of zamindari, the system of direct collection by the government from *bhumidhars*, *sirdars* and *asamis* was introduced through the agency of the collection *amins* whose work is supervised by *naib tahsildars*, *tahsildars* and subdivisional officers. The ultimate responsibility for the collection of dues is that of the collector.

The district demand of main dues in 1976 was as follows :

Main dues	Total demand (in Rs)
Land Revenue	28,60,275
Vikas kar	21,84,843
Irrigation	42,33,117
Taqavi XII	74,20,916
Taqavi XIX	6,90,335

### LAND REFORMS

#### Relation between Landlord and Tenant

In ancient days there was perhaps no intermediary between the ruler and the cultivator, there being groups of cultivators owing allegiance to a raja and paying him a share of the produce. The raja in his turn protected them from predators and was responsible

for maintaining tranquillity in his territory. Under the sultans of Delhi, those who were given assignments of land seem to have acquired the status of intermediaries but no details are available regarding the relationship that existed between the peasants and their feudal lords and there was no permanency of tenure. In the mediaeval period, Sher Shah wished to introduce a system in which the State would come into direct contact with the cultivators but he continued the old practice of assigning lands to individuals, the assignee acting as the intermediary between the ruler and the cultivator. The most notable feature of this assessment, as introduced by Todar Mal, during the reign of Akbar, was that the individual *raiyyat* under took to pay the State the amount due from him for the land under his plough, the system being known as *raiyyatwari*. Those entrusted with the collection of revenue revised or their services remuneration in the shape of percentages on the collection from the *raiyyats*.

During the chaos that prevailed after the fall of the Mughal empire he intermediaries been exaction as much as they could from the cultivators who, therefore, naturally gave up taking an interest in the improvement of their land and as the proprietors had no private rights in their land, it was left to fend for itself.

In the eighteenth century the district came into the possession of Balwant Singh (the raja of Varanasi) as a feudatory, first of the Nawab vizier of Avadh and then of the East India Company. His main object was to increase the revenue and he was wise enough to see that this could be effected only by increasing the cultivation. He ordered that no rent was to be collected from July to the beginning of October enabling the tenant to sow a full area and reclaim waste land. This salutary rule produced excellent results which only disappeared when his successor, Chait Singh, neglected to follow his lead. Under his rule the province suffered greatly. The *amils*, who now enjoyed for greater freedom than before, resorted to every illegal method of extorting more and more revenue. To coerce the recalcitrant cultivators, they did not hesitate to employ even violent means. Every contractor used to maintain a considerable force of armed men. The transfer of the province to the East India Company in 1775 did not improve matters as the administration remained in the hands of the raja on his paying the Company a fixed revenue. With the deposition of Chait Singh in 1781, the condition went from bad to worse. The new raja, Mahip Narain Singh, was powerless as the entire authority was held by his deputy, who joined the *amils* in fraudulently diverting to their own use the money due to the raja and harassing the peasants with every form of extortion. It was impossible to place an adequate check on extortion or to safeguard in any way the interests of the agricultural community. Many of those who had immediate occupancy of the soil had no substantive rights and were at the mercy of the rapacious rent collectors. This unsatisfactory state of affairs drew the attention of Jonathan Duncan, who was appointed Resident of

Benares (Varanasi) in 1787. He drew up a scheme of reforms for the benefit of the tenants. A uniform standard of measurement was adopted *batai* was substituted for *kankut* and the payment of rent was changed from kind to cash at a fixed rate. All cesses levied since 1779 were abolished. He forbade an actual division of the crop, substituting for it an appraisement before the harvest together with a scale of rates published each year before the crop was ripe, according to which the amount determined by appraisement was to be commuted to cash. The abuses were checked but not stopped altogether.

The question of tenants' rights received some consideration in Regulation LI of 1795 for the issue of *pattas* or leases to cultivators by the zamindars and fixing the rent due the rate to be determined by rules established in the *pargana*, *tappa* or *taluka* for similar lands. It determined the origin of occupancy rights for it was laid down that *khudkasht* or *maurusi* tenants could not be ejected so long as they paid the stipulated rent and only *paikasht* tenants (tenants-at-will) could be removed from their holdings on the expiry of the lease. The result of this enactment was that occupancy rates were fixed for good, so that this class of holding became for practical purposes identical with that of the tenants at fixed rates. In other respects it proved to be of little effect as owing to the ignorance of the cultivators very few leases were granted, though in spite of this the enhancements appear to have been very small. The Rent Act of 1859 recognised the rights of subordinate tenure holders by giving stability of tenure to the tenants who acquired rights of occupancy by virtue of having cultivated the land for a period of 12 years continuously and to certain others who were entitled to hold it at fixed rents. Their rents were determined at 'fair and equitable' or prevailing rates, these being somewhat higher than the old fixed rates, as among other circumstances, the increased value of produce was taken into consideration. But the effect was negligible as the area under fixed rates was large and as occupancy rights were given only to a limited class. The bulk of the peasantry was given no protection either against the enhancement of rent or ejectment. The rent of the occupancy tenants could also be increased for various reasons and no period or limit was fixed for successive enhancements. Enhancements were, for the most part, confined to the *patidari* estates, where they were obtained by pressure and by ejectment for arrears. In such villages the tenants were not strong enough to prevent the intrusion of newcomers, while the owners always had the alternative of taking the land into their own cultivation if the old tenant refused to submit. The effect of the legislation of 1859 was much the same as it was not followed by any record-of-rights defining the possession of the tenants and the absence of such a record tended to discourage attempts at enhancement, for every tenant claimed to hold his land at fixed rates and this contention had to be disproved before any further steps could be taken. The North-Western Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1873, recognised expropriatory tenancies

of *sir* land as well but the result was insignificant. It altered the status of simple occupancy tenants by making their rights non-transferable and limiting the succession of inheritance. Tenants could now sell their tenancy rights and land frequently fetched as much as Rs 200 per acre. The North-Western Provinces Rent Act of 1881 and its amendments that followed, created occupancy, fixed rate, exproprietary and non-occupancy tenants (also termed tenancies-at-will) the rights of the first two categories being heritable and transferable, those of the next two being transferable only to co-sharers, subject to certain conditions. The rate of rent was determined in accordance with custom or practice to enable any class of persons to hold land at a rate favourable to the landlord. The tenants-at-will had no right and had to cultivate the land till the termination of their agreement with the landholders. The most powerful weapon in the hands of the person entitled to receive rent direct from the cultivator was that he could recover the rent by distress and sale of standing produce. The North-Western Provinces Tenancy Act of 1901 continued the provision of distraint and retained the same classes of tenancy but afforded the following facilities to the tenants : in respect of certain classes of land a tenant who had held the same land continuously for a period of 12 years, was given the right of occupancy ; the interests of exproprietary, occupancy and non-occupancy tenants were made heritable but succession was restricted and the exproprietary and occupancy tenants were authorised to subject their holdings for a period of five years and the non-occupancy tenants for a year. The Agra Tenancy Act of 1926 did away with the registration of leases in the case of non-occupancy tenants, most of whom were given statutory rights. A person who had held land for over three years could become a statutory tenant. When the Indian National Congress party took up the reins of government in the State in 1937, it enacted the United Provinces Tenancy Act, 1939, as a result of which all statutory tenants and certain non-occupancy tenants acquired hereditary rights. Restrictions were imposed on the objection of tenants by landlords, rent rates were fixed, forced labour and *nazrana* were prohibited and landlords were barred from further acquisition of *sir*.

Nevertheless it was only with the passing of the U.P. Agricultural Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1949, which was followed by the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950 that the whole structure of the tenure system was changed and the system of intermediaries interposed between the State and the cultivators for the collection of rent etc., abolished. The Act reduced the multiplicity of tenures (both proprietary and cultivating) and secured the cultivator's ownership of his land and provided incentives for improvement. *Bhumidhars* and *sirdars* now from the bulk of the cultivators in the district and they pay land revenue direct to the government. Their status has been raised to that of independent peasant proprietors with permanent rights. *Bhumidhari* rights could be acquired by tenants over their holdings on payment of ten times the annual rent as well as transferable proprietary rights in their lands ; if not : they could only till the

land and inherit it subletting, except in cases of disability, as defined under the Act, was prohibited. A *sirdar* could also acquire *bhumidhari* rights in his holdings by paying to the government a sum equal to twenty times his annual rent. Public land now vests in the *gaon samaj* and it is managed by a committee known as the *bhumi prabandhak samiti* (land management committee). It lets out land on temporary leases for agricultural, horticultural or for other allied purposes. The tenants are known as *asamis*. The Act granted compensation to all ex-zamindars and a rehabilitation grant to those whose land revenue did not exceed Rs 10,000. The total amount of compensation assessed and paid to the intermediaries of the district amounted to Rs 2,43,308 in cash and Rs 97,62,200 in bonds (by June, 1976).

**Urban**—The U. P. Urban Areas Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1956, was enforced in a part of the district in 1963 and in the whole district by 1972.

In 1975-76 the holdings under different tenures in the district was as follows

Kind of tenure	Total number of tenure holders	Total area in ha.
<i>Bhumidhar</i>	2,07,952	1,48,993
<i>Sirdar</i>	2,25,281	1,72,235
<i>Asami</i>	1,123	588

**Bhoodan**—The *bhoodan yojna* (the land gift movement) was initiated in the country in 1951 by Vinoba Bhave, with the object of obtaining land for the landless. By 1976, an area of 387 ha. was received in the district as gift for the landless out of which 352 ha. were distributed among landless persons. The remaining area of 35 ha. was unfit for allotment.

### Consolidation of Holdings

The Uttar Pradesh Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1953, was passed in order to put an end to scattered small and uneconomic holdings. It was in August, 1960, that the scheme of consolidation was enforced in the district, the operation commencing in 519 villages of tahsil Ballia in an area covering 1,06,769 ha. Consolidation proceedings were started in 1964 in 782 villages of tahsil Rasra which had an area of 2,03,035 ha. The work was started in tahsil Bansdih in 1972 in 451 villages in an area of 88,690 ha.

A settlement officer (consolidation) five consolidation office, 19, assistant consolidation officer, 31 consolidators and 123 consolidation *lekhpals* have been appointed in the district for this work

### Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holding

To effect a more equitable distribution of land, the U. P. Imposition of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1960 was enforced in the district on January, 3, 1961. All the land declared surplus was to vest in the State Government and compensation paid to the landholders concerned. By an amendment brought into force on June 8, 1973, the maximum size of a holding was fixed at 7.30 ha. of irrigated and 10.95 ha. of unirrigated land. This amendment affected 631 landholders and for the purpose of allotment to landless persons, an area of 2,582 ha. was declared surplus.

### ADMINISTRATION OF TAXES OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE

In the district, as elsewhere in the State, the main sources of revenue include several Central and State taxes.

#### Central Taxes

The important Central taxes are Central excise and income-tax.

**Central Excise**—The Superintendent of Central Excise (with headquarters at Varanasi) exercises jurisdiction over the district in which there are three sectors, each headed by an inspector.

The commodities under Central excise revenue from 1971-72 to 1975-76 were as follows :

Commodity	Year				
	1971-1972	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Tobacco	8,05,946	10,96,414	10,28,283	11,37,679	13,22,621
Biris	Did not carry excise levy			1,179	68,901
Cotton fabrics	40	73	80	100	400
Matches	33,300	35,344	23,400	45,936	47,397
Khandsari	10,975	14,913	4,715	Does not operate now	
Sugar	Factory not in existence				4,455

**Income Tax**—For income-tax collection, the district is under the charge of an income-tax officer with headquarters at Ballia. He also deals with wealth tax and gift tax. The following amounts were collected in the district during the nine years ended 1975-76:

Year	Income-tax		Wealth tax		Gift tax	
	No. of assesseees	Amount (in Rs)	No. of assesseees	Amount (in Rs)	No. of assesseees	Amount (in Rs)
1967-68	1,340	5,35,000	8	7,000	1	—
1968-69	1,484	6,39,000	10	8,000	2	1,000
1969-70	1,693	7,87,000	12	8,000	5	2,000
1970-71	1,737	8,12,000	14	18,000	9	2,000
1971-72	2,221	9,51,000	16	18,000	13	6,000
1972-73	2,937	8,98,000	16	37,000	18	6,000
1973-74	2,125	9,50,000	22	31,000	18	7,000
1974-75	3,136	15,01,000	21	1,60,000	14	9,000
1975-76	3,018	15,96,000	31	67,000	36	12,000

The variation in the number of assesseees in different years is due to the addition or removal of names of assesseees from the general index register and the variation in the amount of tax is due to the changes in taxation made from time to time.

**Estate Duty**—Since 1953, estate duty is levied in the district in accordance with the Estate Duty Act of 1953 on the capital value of all property which passes or is deemed to pass on the death of any person to the heirs.

The district of Ballia falls under the estate duty circle of Allahabad for purposes of collection of estate duty. The assessment of estate duty in the district from 1974-75 to 1975-76 was as follows :

Year	Over Rs 50,000		Below Rs 50,000		Total	
	No. of assesseees	Amount of tax (in Rs)	No. of assesseees	Amount of tax (in Rs)	No. of assesseees	Amount of tax (in Rs)
1974-75	2	9,583	24	Nil	26	9,583
1975-76	1	6,036	18	Nil	19	6,036

### STATE TAXES

#### Excise

Excise has been one of the most important sources of State revenue in the district. For the purpose of excise administration, the district falls in the range of the assistant excise commissioner, Varanasi. The district is divided into two circles each under the charge of an excise inspector who works under the district excise officer.

**Liquor**—In the 1976 the number of retail shops in the district was 31 of which 16 were in tahsil Ballia, 8 in tahsil Bansdih and 7 in tahsil Rasra. The rate for plain country liquor was fixed at 63 paise per litre and that for the spiced variety at 58 paise per litre.

From 1964-65 to 1975-76 the quantity of country liquor consumed in the district was as under :



Year	Quantity in L. P. (1)
1964-65	81,414
1965-66	69,175
1966-67	79,969
1967-68	63,590
1968-69	62,617
1969-70	59,598
1970-71	55,305
1971-72	28,577
1972-73	64,295
1973-74	88,514
1974-75	78,893
1975-76	49,788

The reasons for the decrease or increase in sales are due the suppression or otherwise of excise crimes.

**Hemp Drugs**—The hemp-drugs or ganja and bhang constituted important items of excise revenue in the past. The use of charas has been abandoned. The system of supply and sale of hemp drugs was through supply contractors under bond. For the sale of bhangs there were 39 shops in the district of which 17 were in tahsil Ballia and 11 in each tahsil of Bansdih and Rasra. The number of shops for the sale of ganja was 8 of which 4 were in tahsil Ballia and 2 each in the Bansdih and Rasra tahsils.

The figures relating to the consumption of bhang and ganja for the 12 years ended 1975-76 were as under :

Year	Quantities in kg.
	Bhang and Ganja
1964-65	1,203
1965-66	1,320
1966-67	1,391
1967-68	1,401
1968-69	1,525
1969-70	1,446
1970-71	1,244
1971-72	1,388
1972-73	1,978
1973-74	1,642
1974-75	1,162
1975-76	1,431

**Tari**—Tari, the juice, is extracted from the today (*tari*) palm tree and fermented. There were 110 shops for the sale of *tari* in the district, 27 being in tahsil Sadar, 30 in tahsil Bansdih and 53 in tahsil Rasra. The retail rate of *tari* was one rupee per bottle.

**Excise Revenue**—The excise revenue from 1965-66 to 1975-76 was as under :

Year	Liquor	Bhang	Tari
1965-66	2,63,700	17,400	1,82,948
1966-67	4,26,900	19,000	1,64,700
1967-68	5,43,000	22,550	2,98,800
1968-69	5,59,550	20,450	2,11,250
1969-70	5,09,550	20,450	3,39,800
1970-71	6,47,150	23,700	3,46,170
1971-72	6,51,350	22,750	3,44,550
1972-73	8,55,150	22,750	3,47,550
1973-74	8,55,250	22,750	3,80,000
1974-75	12,03,750	22,750	4,58,400
1975-76	14,66,250	22,750	6,52,425

### Sales Tax

Sales tax is one of the most important sources of revenue. Being an elastic source of revenue, it helps to collect more revenue by the tax being levied at different stages of sale and at different rates of different commodities.

It is levied under the U. P. Sales Tax Act, 1948, and the Central Scales Tax Act, 1957. For the purposes of the assessment and collection of this tax the district is under a sales tax officer.

In 1975-76 the revenue from the important trades of the district was as follows :

Commodity	Amount of tax (in Rs)
Kirana	5,83,605
Bullion	2,322
Cotton thread	1,456
Brick kilns	5,20,710
Oil-seeds	2,327
Cement	2,81,088
Food-grains	13,12,795
Brasware	28,171
Ornaments	9,093

The net collection from 1964-65 to 1975-76 were as follows :

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1964-65	7,78,358
1965-66	7,31,856
1966-67	7,75,248
1967-68	11,70,675
1968-69	4,80,409
1969-70	15,57,295
1970-71	15,33,387
1971-72	15,14,749
1972-73	18,94,359
1973-74	23,58,072
1974-75	33,76,709
1975-76	36,82,968

### Stamp Duty

Stamp duty was originally introduced by the British to discourage the unusually large number of law suits in courts and for earning revenue from civil litigants, the affixing of stamps being required in legal proceedings and in courts of law only. Later, the use of stamps was made obligatory for business transactions such as receipts, hand notes, bills of exchange, bonds, etc. Similarly legal documents and sale deeds for the transfer of property also had to be drawn up on stamp paper.

Under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, stamps are classified as judicial and non-judicial, the former being used to pay court fees and the latter having to be affixed on bills of exchange, documents, receipts, etc. The income from these sources includes fines and penalties imposed under the Act.

The receipts from judicial and non-judicial stamps for the five years ended 1975-76 were as under :

Year	Sales (in Rs)	
	Judicial	Non-judicial
1971-72	8,03,690.00	11,97,783.75
1972-73	6,06,920.75	10,05,225.30
1973-74	6,71,752.70	16,51,592.40
1974-75	7,38,924.75	16,60,581.00
1975-76	8,11,871.55	33,08,021.20

## Registration

The registration of certain documents such as instruments of sale, gifts or leases of immovable property, instruments relating to shares in joint stock companies, wills, etc., is compulsory under the Indian Registration Act 1908.

The following statement indicates the number of documents and the income and expenditure from 1972-73 to 1975-76 :

Year	No. of registrations	Income (in Rs)	Expenditure (in Rs)
1972-73	5696	2,55,677	63,117
1973-74	8485	4,45,041	49,105
1974-75	8433	5,34,889	85,667
1975-76	8741	5,84,803	82,914

## Tax on Motor Vehicles

All motor vehicles carrying passengers and goods are liable to taxation under the U. P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935, and the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. The regional transport officer, Varanasi, is in charge of the district. The collections from passenger tax in the district for the year 1974-75 were Rs 25,51,896 in the whole region comprising five districts and those on goods tax were Rs 2,88,66,414.

## Entertainment Tax

The entertainment tax in the district is realised from cinemas, *nautankies* (indigenous open air theatres), music conferences, etc. The collections from this source from 1970-71 to 1975-76 were as follows

Year	Amount (in Rs)
1970-71	4,18,559.78
1971-72	4,85,398.31
1972-73	5,48,603.33
1973-74	6,17,997.66
1974-75	8,69,635.24
1975-76	12,35,159.22

## CHAPTER XII

### LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

#### LAW AND ORDER

In the beginning of the present century there were in the district twelve police circles, each having a police-station of which six were of the first, three of the second and the remainder of the third class. In addition to these, there were six out-posts but which were abolished, with the exception of Phephna and Tola Siwan Rai, a third being instituted at Narhi.

All these out-posts were under the charge of the superintendent of police.

At the end of the previous century, crimes affecting life, property, housebreaking and female infanticide were prevalent as were cases of cattle trespass and agrarian riots. The alteration in the courses of the Ganga and Ghaghra were a source of dispute leading to the adoption of violent measures. After Independence there was a spurt in dacoity, the belts along the rivers affording good refuge to such miscreants.

**Incidence of Crime**—An idea of the state of crime may be had from the following table which contains data relating to the major offences committed from 1971 to 1975 :

Type of Crime	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Murder	21	29	35	45	40
Dacoity	50	38	59	105	84
Robbery	122	67	127	172	136
Theft	843	844	881	1,088	922
Riot	237	213	292	226	244
House-breaking	805	697	635	755	712
Kidnapping	11	12	21	14	12

**Organisation of Police**—The police administration of the Ballia district is included in the Varanasi range and is under the charge of a deputy inspector general of police with headquarters at Varanasi. He co-ordinates and controls the functions of the superintendent of police working in his range.

The police force of the district is under the charge of a superintendent, with headquarters at Ballia. He is responsible for the maintenance of peace, discipline and the efficiency of his staff. He is assisted by three deputy superintendents of police and some other staff.

**Civil Police**—The civil police force of the district comprises an inspector, 66 sub-inspectors, 11 assistant sub-inspectors, 73 head constables and 680 constables. The duties of the civil police are detection, prevention and investigation of crimes and the maintenance of discipline and order in the district. The district is divided into three circles for this purpose, with 18 police stations, each under the charge of a station officer, who is assisted by sub-inspectors, assistant inspectors, head constables and constables.

The following table shows the number of police-stations and their out-posts in each circle :

Police circles	Police-stations	Police out-posts
Sadar	Kotwali, Narhi, Bairia Sahatwar, Phephna, Haldi	Okenganj, Japlinganj, Bichilghat, Sheopur, Bairia, Suremanpur, Majhi Lalganj, Ujiarghat, Kulharia, Chit- baragaon, Bhagar Deor, Jauhi, Nauranga
Bansdih	Garwar, Bansdih, Bansdih Road, Maniar, Sikandarpur, Sukhpura	Bansdih, Sikandarpur, Kutubganj
Rasra	Rasra, Nagra, Haldharpur Uphaon, Fukari	Rasra North, Rasra South

**Armed Police**— This branch of the police force of the district consists of the reserve police and is stationed at the reserve lines. The services of the armed police are utilized in guarding government treasuries and property, patrolling, combating dacoits and escorting prisoners.

### Prosecution Staff

The prosecution staff, which was part of the district police force, is now under the control of the district magistrate.

In 1976, the prosecution staff in the district consisted of a public prosecutor and 8 assistant public prosecutors. The public prosecutor and his assistants conduct criminal cases on behalf of the State in the courts of the magistrates.

## Railway Protection Force

The railway protection force of the district falls in the Gorakhpur section which is in the charge of a superintendent of police (railways) under whom the railway police-station at Ballia functions. The main duty of the railway police is to maintain order at railway stations and in trains and control passengers and vehicular traffic in the premises of the railway stations. In October, 1976, it consisted of 2 sub-inspectors, 2 head constables and 19 constables.

## Village Police

The institution of village chowkidars, who form the lowest rank of the police organisation can be traced to a period when there existed no regular police force and when each village had its own chowkidar to assist the village headman in maintaining law and order and guarding crops and property. He was then the servant of the village community and was remunerated by the cultivators with a share of their produce. Later he was placed under the control of the zamindar of the village concerned for the proper discharge of his duties and was paid by him. Under the North-Western Provinces and Road Police Act, 1873, the district magistrate was made the appointing and dismissing authority of the village chowkidars.

The village chowkidars are attached to the police-stations and are paid by government. Their main duty is to report to the local police the commission of crimes and the occurrence of other untowards incidents and accidents in their areas. They also act as process-servers of the *nyaya* panchayats for which they get a small remuneration.

## JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

When the district was first constituted there was no jail, prisoners under trial being kept in the magistrate's lock-up convicted offenders being transferred in batches every week to Ghazipur. This system continued till April, 1897, when a subsidiary jail was established at Korantadih, the then headquarters of the district. A year later, the jail was transferred to Ballia when it once again became the capital in March, 1901. The building had accommodation for 38 prisoners and only short-term convicts were lodged there. The present district jail at Ballia was constructed in 1971 and as before only short-term prisoners are kept here. The district jail is under the charge of the chief medical officer, who is also the superintendent of the jail. He is assisted by a jailor, a deputy jailor and three assistant jailors.

The overall jail administration is exercised by the inspector general of prisons, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow. The jail hospital is looked after by a whole-time doctor (called the assistant medical

officer). The daily average population in it since 1972 has been as follows :

Year	Daily average population	
	Convicts	prisoner under trial
1972	81.47	187.13
1973	83.63	156.28
1974	51.88	183.85
1	51.49	184.24

Formerly the prisoners of the district were classified in categories 'A', 'B' and 'C' but since 1948 they are classified only as 'superior' and 'ordinary'. Now prisoners are paid regular wages for work done. Books, newspapers and periodicals are made available for study and recreation. Various activities and handicrafts have been arranged for their participation. They are provided with special food on festivals. Those who are ill are looked after by the assistant medical officer. The panchavat system operates in the jail and *panchas* are selected by them from among themselves. They also look after the cleanliness of the jail and the preparation of their food.

### Visitors

The ex-officio visitors of the jail are the director of medical and health services, U. P., the commissioner of the Varanasi Division, the district magistrate and the district and sessions judge. All members of State and Central legislatures belonging to the district; the chairman of the central committee of the Uttar Pradeshiya Apradh Nirodhak Samiti, all members of the standing committee of the State legislatures on jails, the chairman of the municipal board and the *adhyaksha* of the Zila Parishad are non-official visitors of the jail.

**Lock-ups**—There are lock-ups at the district headquarters and the police stations for detaining suspects before they are produced in court. They are mere halting places but are well guarded by the constabulary.

### Probation

The district has a probation officer, whose duty it is to make enquiries and submit his recommendations in respect of first offenders in all cases referred to him by the courts or where it is proposed to release a first offender with an admonition or on probation, on a stipulation of good conduct, for a specified period.

In 1973, the U. P. First Offenders Probation Act, 1938, was introduced into the district. The reformation officer at Ballia was given the additional powers of district probation



officer in 1974 and designated district probation-cum-reformation officer. He deals with delinquent probationers as well as children under trial. The officer pays domiciliary visits and also meets probationers and children to assess the possibility of their rehabilitation through various educational, welfare and employment agencies.

Under the U. P. Children Act, 1951, which was made applicable to the district in 1969-70, a government observation home to accommodate such children, has been functioning in Ballia and it contributes to the rehabilitation of delinquent children and like such social welfare activities in the district. Under the orders of the court, the home keeps children who are 16 years of age or under and looks after their care and safety during the pendency of their cases. Then they are sent for education, etc., to approved government schools or released on probation under the care of the reformation officer or released for being looked after by a proper guardian.

The number of probations who were released under the U. P. First Offenders Probation Act, 1938, was 6 in 1973 and 48 and 103 in 1974 and 1975 respectively.

The following statement shows the number of probationers who were paid domiciliary visits and those who came to the officer :

Year	Number of probationers	
	Number of domiciliary visits made	No. attend to in office
1973	—	6
1974	172	285
1975	409	572

## JUSTICE

### Civil Justice

For the administration of civil justice, the district was in the charge of a collector about 1900, who was subject to the control of the commissioner of Varanasi Division. Previously the district was included in the judicial set up of Ghazipur, subordinate to which were the munsifs of Ballia and Rasra. For this purposes the circle of Ballia comprised the parganas of Ballia, Doaba and Kharid and that of Rasra, the rest of the district, excluding Garha. There were honorary magistrates for Sikandarpur and Bhadaon.

The system of judiciary followed the lines laid down by the British, with the exception that on January 26, 1950, the Government of India Act, 1935, was replaced by the Constitution of India. The new Code of Criminal Procedure came into force on April 1, 1974 and in May, 1974, the cadre of civil and sessions judges was replaced by that of additional district and sessions judges.

The civil judiciary at Ballia consists of the courts of a district judge, an additional district judge, an assistant judge, 2 munsifs & 4 additional munsifs, a chief judicial officer and 2 judicial officers.

The position of civil cases in 1975 was as under :

Cases	Number of suits
Pending at beginning of year	3,896
Instituted during year	1,447
Disposed of during year	4,142
Pending at end of year	1,201

In that year the number of suits involving immovable property was 761, the number of suits instituted in respect of movable property was 581, the number of mortgage suits and matrimonial suits was 12 and 14 respectively, and the number of some other important suits was 18. The number of suits instituted in 1975 according to their valuation was as follows :

Valuation	Number of suits
Not exceeding Rs 100	41
Exceeding Rs 100 but not Rs 1,000	243
Exceeding Rs 1,000 but not Rs 5,000	385
Exceeding Rs 5,000 but not Rs 10,000	57
Exceeding Rs 10,000 but not Rs 60,000	99

The valuation of the property in the suits so instituted was Rs 40.03.470. Some information regarding the modes of disposal of the suits as in 1975 are as follows :

Manner of disposal	Number of suits
Disposed of after trial	201
Dismissed in default	404
Otherwise decided without trial	445
Decreed ex parte	354
Disposed of on admission of claims	12
Disposed of by compromise	242
Disposed of by arbitration	2

The position of appeals of instituted and disposed of in 1975 was as follows :

Type	Instituted	Disposed of
Regular civil appeals	315	648
Miscellaneous civil appeals	116	215

### Criminal Justice

In the beginning of the present century, the district of Ballia was in the charge of a magistrate and collector subordinate to the commissioner of the Varanasi Division. There were three deputy magistrates with first class powers and at the tahsil level there were three tahsildars vested with second and third class magisterial powers.

The district and sessions judge constitutes the chief criminal court of the district. In sessions trials he is assisted by an additional and an assistant sessions judge, 2 *munsif* magistrates, 4 additional *munsif* magistrates, a chief judicial magistrate and 2 judicial magistrates. Some information about the disposal of criminal cases is given below :

#### Persons, Tried/Sentenced

Persons tried/sentenced	1971	1975
Persons tried	416	407
Death	—	—
Life imprisonment	24	26
Rigorous imprisonment	—	—
Simple imprisonment	61	56
Fine only	203	227
Other punishment	126	98

### Separation of Executive from Judiciary

The partial separation of the executive from the judicial magistracy was enforced in the district in 1968 and a post of an additional district magistrate (judicial) was created under whom the judicial magistrates were placed. As a rule, judicial officers tried cases under the Indian Penal Code and suits and proceedings under the Land Revenue Act, 1901, continued to be tried by the executive magistrates and assistant collectors in charge of the subdivisions.

As a further step towards the separation of the judiciary from the executive the additional district magistrate (judicial) and the judicial magistrates working under him were transferred

to the control of the district and sessions judge, with effect from October 2, 1967. They tried cases under the Indian Penal Code. The judicial magistrates were to be utilized for law and order duties by the district magistrate only in an emergency and with the prior approval of the district and session judge. For such occasions all executive officers posted in the district exercise first class magisterial powers and all *naib tahsildars* enjoy second class powers, in order that they may be utilized for the maintenance of law and order. The process has found its logical culmination in the new code of Criminal Procedures which ensures an almost absolute separation. The executive magistrates have been relieved of their judicial functions both under the I. P. C. and other enactments and perform only executive duties related to the maintenance of public peace, law and order. Under the new Code, the prosecuting unit has been removed from the control of the superintendent of police and has been placed under the direct superintendent and control of the district magistrates.

**Nyaya Panchayats**—*Panchayati adalats*, now called *nyaya* panchayats were established in the district in 1949 under the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1949, to entrust the village people with the adjudication, locally, of petty offences and certain civil disputes. The jurisdiction of the *nyaya* panchayats usually extends over an area of five to ten *gaon sabhas* depending on the population of the constituent villages. The number of *nyaya* panchayats in the district was 171 in 1949 which has gone up to 174 by 1975.

The district magistrate nominates the *panchas* of the *nyaya* panchayats from among the elected *panchas* of the *gaon* panchayats. These *panchas* elect the *sarpanch* (presiding officer) from among themselves. They also elect a *sahayak* (assistant) *sarpanch* to assist the *sarpanch*. There *panchas* are honorary and are elected for five years but the term can be extended by a year by the State Government. Cases are heard by benches consisting of five *panchas* each, constituted by the *sarpanch* annually. The presence of at least three *panchas* including a *sarpanch* is essential at each hearing.

The panchayats are empowered to try all the cases under the following Acts and their sections :

(a) The U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947

(b) Sections

140	160	172	174	179
269	272	283	285	289
290	294	328	334	341
352	357	358	374	379*
403*	411	426	428	430
431	447	448	504	506

\*involving property not exceeding an amount of Rs 50 in value.

(c) Sections 24 and 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871

(d) Subsection 1 of section 10 of the U. P. District Board Primary Education Act, 1926 and

(e) Section 3, 4, 7 and 13 of the Public Gambling Act, 1867

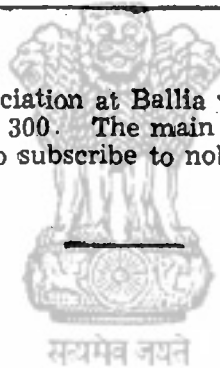
The panchayats have also original jurisdiction to try civil cases up to a valuation of Rs. 500 and any settlement comprising an oath, if the parties agree in writing to such a course. They are not authorised to award a sentence of imprisonment and can impose fines only up to Rs 100.

The number of cases instituted in the *nyaya* panchayats and disposed of by them during 1970-71 and 1974-75 was as follows :

Year	Cases pending at beginning of year		Cases instituted during year		Cases disposed of	
	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Civil	Criminal
1970-71	46	21	166	78	183	87
1971-72	29	12	92	44	93	47
1972-73	28	10	43	11	52	14
1973-74	19	7	38	5	2	—
1974-75	55	12	217	182	144	115

#### Bar Association

There is a bar association at Ballia which was founded in 1942 and has a membership of 300. The main purpose of this association is to help the members to subscribe to nobler professional conduct.



## CHAPTER XIII

### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The departments of the State Government dealing with general administration, revenue administration and law and order and justice, have already been dealt with in chapters X, XI and XII respectively and details of several other departments have been described in certain other chapters. The organizational set up at the district level of some important departments like that of agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operatives, public works and industries is briefly discussed below :

#### Agriculture Department

For purposes of agriculture, the district comes under the administrative control of the deputy director of agriculture, with headquarters at Varanasi. Locally the district agriculture officer is in-charge of the department and is assisted by two additional district agriculture officers.

There are two agriculture demonstration and multiplication farms in the district and two farm superintendents, posted at Keora and Suhaon, are responsible for these farms.

The oil-seed extension inspector, assisted by four assistant oil-seed inspectors and two oil-seed supervisors, are responsible for the oil-seed development work in the district and the supply of oil-seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

The jute development inspector, assisted by three assistant jute development inspectors, supervises the extension and demonstration of jute cultivation in the district, the distribution of jute seeds to cultivators and the organization of the jute crop competition.

The deputy registrar, co-operative societies, Varanasi is the district include the extension of the development of pulse and the demonstration of improved varieties of *arhar*, *moong*, *urd*, *gram*, *pea*, *masoor*, etc. His duties also include the distribution of pulse seeds to cultivators.

The principal functions of the department are to help to increase farm produce, to train farmers in modern scientific techniques and to ensure quick supplies of various items such as improved seed, chemical fertilizers, modern implements and insecticides and pesticides against cash or *taqavi* loans.

Customary service is also arranged by way of hiring out tractors threshers, etc., to the cultivators on nominal charges. Demonstration at government and private farms and centres are held to impart the latest information and techniques to cultivators. As a further incentive short-term courses are also held periodically at the block and village levels to disseminate knowledge of improved techniques in the field of agricultural production. In

cases of epidemics of agricultural diseases, the department undertakes suitable measures to combat them speedily.

At the block level, the activities of this department are supervised by 18 assistant development officers (agriculture) who are responsible for the agriculture development programmes such as intensive cultivation, the use of improved seeds, manures, provision of technical support to various programmes, supervision of seed stores, distribution of fertilizers and recovery of dues.

There are in the district 30 seed stores, each manned by a *kamdar*, each being under the supervision of an assistant agriculture inspector. These assistant agriculture inspectors meet the agricultural requirements of the block and are responsible for the agricultural development activities of the villages adjoining the seed stores.

### Soil Conservation

The district has a soil conservation officer who supervises the activities pertaining to soil conservation. He is assisted by 5 soil conservation inspectors, 5 assistant soil conservation inspectors, a technical assistant and 2 overseers. Every year new areas are selected by the soil conservation officer for the purpose of soil conservation. He prepares estimates of financial needs, etc., of the new areas and the details of the type of work to be undertaken and familiarises the cultivators with the programmes to be implemented. The five soil conservation inspectors, supervise and execute planning, budgeting, evaluation and measurement programmes in their subunits, the assistant soil conservation inspectors also assisting in the masonry work within their jurisdictions. The overseers prepare the plan estimates and plan the masonry work required. Various duties under the soil conservation schemes such as the construction of contour bunds and check dams, escapes, afforestation and minor irrigation work are carried out by this department.

### Animal Husbandry Department

The district falls under the jurisdiction of the deputy director of animal husbandry posted at Varanasi. The district live-stock officer is in charge of this department at the district level, being responsible for improving the breeds of cattle and poultry preventing and treating their diseases, controlling possible out-breaks of epidemics among the animals implementing of the Plan schemes of the department helping in the execution of nutrition programmes and arranging for loans for poultry farming. He is assisted by a number of veterinary surgeons and other trained staff who are responsible for the treatment of animal diseases control of epidemics, castration of scurbulls and better breeding of cattle. There are 21 veterinary hospitals and 14 artificial insemination centres in the district.

### Co-operative Department

The Co-operative department deals with the organization registration supervision and working of various co-operative societies in the district and attends to administrative and statu-

tory functions like the supervision and control of departmental staff and the inspection of co-operative establishments.

The deputy registrar, co-operative societies, Varanasi, is the regional head of the department. At the district level he is assisted by the assistant registrar, who is in charge of exercising supervision and control over the co-operative staff and supervises all activities pertaining to co-operative undertakings in the district. He is assisted by four inspectors.

Each of the 18 development blocks of the district has an assistant development officer (co-operatives) to supervise co-operative activities. The other members of the staff include 5 assistant co-operative inspectors, an accountant, an agriculture supervisor and a *gram sewak*. The district has 48 co-operative supervisors of whom 21 are working as supervisors of the seed stores. Another 25 supervisors functioning under the credit scheme of whom 4 function as secretaries of the district co-operative societies.

### Horticulture Department

The department (originally affiliated to the department of agriculture) initially managed the task of the rejuvenation of old orchards through improved methods. The main functions of the department now are the implementation of various schemes of horticulture in the district (such as the development of nurseries on scientific lines) supply of plants vegetable seeds and seedlings, insecticides and pesticides etc., and the provisions of technical guidance to horticulturists and vegetable growers.

The district horticulture officer, assisted by a senior horticulture inspector, is responsible for the implementation of the various horticulture schemes in the district. He is also assisted by 2 district horticulture inspectors and 4 assistant horticulture inspectors. They supervise the layout of orchards, plant nurseries, supply vegetable seeds and seedlings and give technical guidance to cultivators to whom they supply plants and vegetable seeds.

### Industries Department

For purposes of the development of industries, Ballia falls within the Varanasi zone which is under the charge of a joint director of industries.

At the district level, the department is headed by a deputy director of industries who is in charge of all the industrial activities and motivates entrepreneurs in the district. He is assisted by an assistant director and a planning-cum-survey officer whose work is to carry out industrial surveys of the district to locate the availability of resources to find out the possibilities of their utilization and to plan a balanced development of the different industries in the district. The technical officer is responsible for the preparation of project report and for imparting guidance to entrepreneurs in different branches of industries such as the mechanical, engineering, electrical, chemical and ceramic.



The department is also served by an industrial development officer (industries) and an industries inspector who are responsible for the intensive development of small-scale industries and the expansion and diversification of industrial activities in their areas.

### **Public Works Department**

The district falls within circle VIII of the public works department. The chief engineer, with headquarters at Lucknow, is in over all charge of this department. The executive engineer, with headquarters at Gorakhpur, is responsible for the entire division, his duties including the supervision and administration of the district. He is assisted by an assistant engineer and a junior engineer, whose duties include the construction and maintenance of roads and government buildings.



## CHAPTER XIV

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The ancient history of Ballia testifies that this region was a part of the kingdom of Kosala and the Mallas, the Nandas, the Maur-yas, the Guptas and other Hindu rulers ruled here. Hindu polity has always endeavoured to give considerable autonomy to local institutions like panchayats and functionaries like the *gramika* (village head-man) and *gramavadin* are mentioned in ancient texts. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that viable self-governing units functioned in the villages and towns for a long time till under Muslim sway they became obscure for want of State patronage. In the absence of any reference regarding the existence of these institutions in this district in particular, it is impossible to delineate the rise and fall of these institutions in this region. But their growth after the British occupation of this region in 1781 can be traced with some accuracy.

In 1860, Ballia Rasra and Sikandarpur were brought under the provisions of the Bengal Chaukidari Act (Act XX, of 1856). On February 27, 1873, the towns of Bansdih, Maniyar, Sahatwar and Reoti were also brought under the provisions of the Act as were the towns of Baragaon and Bilthara in 1899.

The administration of local affairs in the district was largely in the hands of the district board, a body which had been in existence since the introduction of Act XIV of 1883.

#### Municipal Board

##### Ballia

The municipal board, Ballia, is the only such body in the district. Ballia was constituted a municipality in November, 1871, prior to which it was administered as an Act XX town. It is administered under the U. P. Municipalities Act, 1916, as amended from time to time. The board has 19 members who are elected directly from the seven wards of the town. The members elect a president through a majority vote from amongst themselves for a period of 5 years. The area of the town at the 1971 census was 16.11 sq. km. and it had a population of 47,101 persons.

**Water Supply**—Piped water was made available to the town in 1956. The one tube-well has a storage capacity of one lakh gallons of water. The number of public and private water taps in the town was 67 and 1,940 respectively. About 9,85,500 litres of water was supplied in that year.

**Street Lighting**—The town was electrified in 1955. There were 468 lamps in the streets and lanes of the town in 1974-75.

**Public Health and Sanitation**—The medical officer of health is in charge of the public health activities of the board. He is

assisted by 7 sanitary *jamadars*, 2 sanitary inspectors, 138 sweepers, 2 vaccinators and some other staff.

The Statement I (a) and (b) at the end of the chapter gives an account of the income and expenditure of the board from 1966-67 to 1975-76 :

#### TOWN AREAS

##### Baragaon

The U. P. Town Areas Act, 1914, was applied to the town in 1914, prior to which it was administered as an Act XX town (since 1899). According to the census of 1971, the town had a population of 11,593 spread over an area of 1.55 sq. km. The civic affairs of the town are managed by a committee of 12 members and a chairman who are directly elected by the residents through adults franchise for a period of 5 years.

The town was electrified in 1964 and in 1975 it had 63 street electric lamps. The main sources of income of the town area committee are the taxes levied by it and government grants.

The Statement II at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of the town area from 1972-73 to 1975-76.

##### Bansdih

In 1873, this town was one of the Act xx towns of the district. It was raised to the status of a town area in the year 1914. In 1971, it had an area of 4.49 sq. km. and a population of 10,773. The town is managed by a committee consisting of a chairman and 11 members elected for a period of 5 year through adult suffrage.

The main sources of income of the local body are government grants and local taxes and the items of expenditure are general administration, public works and other items of local utility.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1960. There were 63 street electric lamps in 1976. The income and expenditure under various heads as in 1975-76 are mentioned in the following statement :

Receipts	Amount (in Rs)	Expenditure	Amount (in Rs)
Government grants	—	Public health	23,388
Taxes	518	General administration	8,800
Others	84,131	Public works	1,247
		Others	1,037
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,649</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>34,472</b>

### **Bilthra Road**

The town was brought under the U. P. Town Areas Act, 1914, in 1966, prior to which it was administered as an Act XX town (since 1899). According to the census of 1971, the town had a population of 5,518 persons spread over an area of 8.1 sq. km. The civic affairs of the town are managed by a committee of 9 members and a chairman who are elected directly for a period of 5 years by the residents.

The town was electrified in 1971. In 1975-76 there were 105 lamps for lighting the roads and streets on which the committee spend a sum of Rs 1,937. The statement III at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of the town area from 1968-69 to 1975-76.

### **Basra**

The town was brought under the U. P. Town Areas Act 1914, prior to which it was administered as an Act XX town (since 1860). According to the census of 1971, it had a population of 14,042 persons spread over an area of 2.5 sq. km. The civic affairs of the town area managed by a committee of 14 members and a chairman, elected directly through adult franchise for a period of 5 years.

The town was electrified in 1955. In 1975-76 there were 101 street lamps for lighting the roads and streets on which account the committee spend a sum of Rs 3,500. The Statement IV at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of the town area from 1971-72 to 1975-76.

### **Keoli**

The town has been administered under the provisions of the U. P. Town Areas Act, 1914, since 1968, prior to which it was administered as an Act XX town since 1873. According to the census of 1971, it has a population of 11,617 and an area of 4.12 sq. km. It is managed by a committee consisting of a chairman and 11 members elected for 5 years through adult suffrage.

The main sources of income of the local body are Government grants and local taxes and the items of expenditure are general administration, public works and other items of local utility.

Electricity reached the town in 1962. There are 40 street electric lamps. A sum of Rs 330 was spent on this account in 1975-76. The statement V at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of the town area from 1969-70 to 1975-76.

### Sahatwar

The town has been administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856 since 1873 but was brought under the U.P. Town Areas Act, 1914. According to the census of 1971 the area and population of the town was 5.25 sq. km. and 10,633 respectively.

The town is managed by a chairman and a committee consisting of 11 members elected directly for a term of 5 year through adult franchise

The main sources of income of the local body are government grants and local taxes and the items of expenditure are general administration, public works and other items of local utility.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1951. In 1975-76 there were 72 electric lamps for lighting the roads and streets of the town and a sum of Rs 4,000 was spent on this account.

The income and expenditure under various heads in 1975-76 are mentioned in the following table :

Income	Amount (in Rs)	Income	Amount (in Rs)
Government grants	21,486	General administration and collection charges	13,944
Receipts from taxes	3,895	Public works	17,176
Other receipts	3,230	Other sources	582
Total	28,591	Total	31,702

### NOTIFIED AREAS

#### Maniari

This town has been administered as a notified area under the provisions of the U.P. Municipalities Act, 1916, since December 1972 prior to which it was governed as an Act XX town since 1873. According to the census of 1971, it has a population of 10,602 and an area of 3.7 sq. km.

The main heads from which the town derives its income are government grants receipts from various taxes, slaughter houses, etc. The civic affairs of the town are managed by a committee of 11 members and a chairman who are elected directly through adult franchise for a period of 5 years.

The place is electrified and in 1975-76 there were 76 electric lamp for lighting the street and roads when a sum of Rs 936 was spent on this account. The Statement VI at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of the notified area from 1968-69 to 1975-76.

## Sikandarpur

The town was administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856 in 1860. It was upgraded as a notified area in December, 1972. According to the census of 1971, the area and population of the town was 3.31 sq. km. and 10,219 respectively.

The town is managed by a committee consisting of a chairman and members elected directly through adult franchise for a term of 5 years.

The main sources of income of the local body are government grants and local taxes and the items of expenditure are general administration, public works and other items of local utility.

Electricity was made available to the town in 1968. There were 35 street electric lamps in 1975-76, when a sum of Rs 800 was spent on this head. The town has a vaccinator and about 340 persons were vaccinated in that year.

The Statement VII at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of the notified area from 1970-71 to 1975-76.

### PANCHAYATI RAJ

In ancient times, panchayats, which were bodies of village elders, exercised administrative and judicial powers over the community. With the advent of Muslim rule, these self-governing units lost their importance to a great extent but the panchayats were allowed to continue till they came into conflict with the (Muslim) law of the rules which had permeated into the villages.

Under British rule, these panchayats lost even their residual importance though they continued to survive and control the social life of the village. But the alien rulers soon realised that they could not do away with these traditional institutions and they gave some encouragement to them by recognising their importance. But in time these lost their characteristic traditional feature. New panchayats were created under the U. P. Gram Panchayat Act, 1920.

The first real beginnings of self-government in the villages through responsible panchayats were made in 1947, when after Independence, the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was passed and introduced in the district and the *gaon sabhas* and *gaon panchayats* started functioning. Under the Act the ancient system was reorganised and adequate powers were delegated to the *gaon panchayats* for the administration of the village.

The national extension blocks (now called development blocks) which were set up for community development started coming into being gradually from 1957. They had block development committees which were advisory bodies constituted to help and advise the staff posted in the blocks for speedy implementation of the five year plan schemes. Their structure was altered

by the enactment of the U. P. Kshettra Samiti and Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961, and these *samitis* (committees) became statutory bodies with wide executive and financial powers. With the passing of the Act, a three-tier organization came into being, the Gaon panchayats being at the base, the Kshettra Samitis in the middle and the Zila Parishad at the apex.

### **Zila Parishad**

During early British times, a district committee was constituted to look after the administration of a town. In time this committee gave place to a district board. The district board of the district was established in 1883 under the Local Boards Act, 1883, and it was entrusted with more extended functions than the district committee. The board consisted of 13 members, of whom 9 were elected, one being returned annually for a period of three years from each tahsil, the remaining four including the district magistrate as chairman and the three subdivisional officers. The executive work was performed by the secretary who was usually one of the subdivisional magistrates and was under the control of the chairman. The duties of the board comprised the management of local institutions outside the municipal area, such as roads, schools, dispensaries, ferries, cattle pounds and the like. The U. P. District Board Act of 1922, governed the working of the district boards till the passing of the Antarim Zila Parishad Act of 1958 which converted the district board into the Antarim Zila Parishad. The body now known as the Zila Parishad was established in 1962 under the U. P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961. The present Parishad has been functioning since November, 1974, after the election of the *adhyaksh* (chairman). It has 71 members, 3 of whom are nominated by the State Government.

The *adhyaksh* is elected by the members through the system of proportional representation and his term as well as that of the members is five years which may be extended or reduced by the State Government in special circumstances. The vice-president is elected for one year.

The functions of the Zila Parishad are somewhat akin to those of the old district board. They include co-ordination of the activities of *vikas khanda* (development blocks) implementation of inter-block schemes and utilisation of funds allotted by the government for the purpose of agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, co-operation, village industries, public health, education, construction as well as repairs of roads, bridges and ferries, cultural activities and the welfare of children, women and the youth of the area. The principal sources of income of the Zila Parishad are government grants and taxes. The income is mostly spent on general administration, medical and public health, public works and fairs.

### **Education**

Institutions up to the senior Basic stage (junior high school) were under the control of the Zila Parishad till June 26, 1972, when

they were taken over by the State Government the Zila Parishad utilising funds from government grants for the maintenance and construction of school buildings, etc.

**Medical and Public Health**—The Parishad maintained 3 Ayurvedic and 5 allopathic dispensaries. For vaccination purposes 18 vaccinators and a vaccination inspector are employed by the Parishad.

The Statement VIII (a) and (b) at the end of the chapter gives the details of income and expenditure of Zila Parishad from 1966-67 to 1975-76.

### **Kshettra Samitis**

The community development block established in the fifties of the present century for intensive social and economic development of the rural areas, had block advisory committees to help and advise the extension agency. With the enforcement of the U.P. Kshettra Samitis and Zila Parishad Adhiniyam, 1961, the functions that were previously carried out by these committees develop on the Kshettra Samitis in 1963. The number of these samitis was 18 in 1975-76, there being one for each development block. The term of the Kshettra Samitis is normally 5 years but can be curtailed or extended by the government. The members of the Kshettra Samitis consist of all the *pradhans* of the *gaon sabhas*, the chairman of the town area committees within the block and all elected members of the Central and States Legislatures representing or residing in any part of the development block or Kshettra. The Samitis also co-opt persons interested in planning and development work, representatives of women and persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The number of members in 1975-76 was 15 (5 women, 8 Scheduled Castes persons and two co-opted). The Kshettra Samiti is headed by a *pramukh* and two *up-pramuks* elected by the members. The block development officer acts as the executive officer of the samiti which is responsible for the formulation and execution of the development plans of the *gaon sabhas* relating to agriculture, horticulture, live-stock, fisheries, minor irrigation works, opening of maternity and child welfare centres, prevention and control of epidemics, promotion of village industries and co-operative institutions.

Every Kshettra Samiti consists of a *karya karmi* (executive) *utpadan* (production) and *kalyan* (welfare) samiti headed by the *pramukh* and two *up-pramukh* respectively. Since 1964, the services of the officers and others employed in the development blocks have been placed at the disposal of the Kshettra Samiti. The samiti acts as the co-ordinating agency for the *gaon sabhas* functioning within its jurisdiction for the implementation of schemes and programmes.



## Gaon Panchayats

With the coming into force of the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, elections were held in 1949 and 171 gaon panchayats were constituted in the district. In 1975-76 their member rose to 174. The panchayat is the executive body of the *gaon sabha* which consists of the adult population of the area. A fixed number of members, a *pradhan* and an *up-pradhan* are elected by the members of the *gaon sabha* usually for a period of 5 years. The *pradhan* and *up-pradhan* also function as chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the larger body, the *gaon sabha*. The panchayat *sevak* is the secretary-cum-executive officer of the *gaon sabha* and the *gaon panchayat*.

The functions of the *gaon panchayat* include the construction repair, cleaning and lighting of streets, improvement of sanitation and prevention of epidemics, maintenance of buildings, land and other property belonging to the *gaon sabha*, registration of births and deaths, regulation of markets and fairs, provisions for portable drinking water and the welfare of the backward groups of the people particularly Harijans women and children.

For the achievement of these objectives, the *gaon panchayats* largely depend upon voluntary contributions and government aid. To augment their resources they have been empowered to levy taxes, rates and fees, etc., by an ordinance promulgated in November, 1972. They have also been made eligible to borrow money from the State Government, corporation, scheduled banks, co-operatives and other financing bodies.

The statement below gives an account of the work done by the *gaon panchayats* during the course of the Third Five-year Plan period :

name of activity	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Construction of pakka roads	104	—	—	300	150
Kutchra roads	12,501	6,500	1,30,100	31,737	64,270
Kharanjas	2,255	9,452	221	8,785	24,485
Culverts (number of)	4	16	31	16	18
Drinking water wells (number of)	25	31	110	28	17
Panchayat ghars and community development block buildings (number of)	—	—	2	1	1
Hand pumps (number of)	200	313	357	245	339

The total income and expenditure of the panchayats during the 5 years ended 1974-75 is mentioned below :

Year	Income (in Rs)	Expenditure (in Rs)
1970-71	7,47,477	2,53,258
1971-72	6,77,808	2,29,813
1972-73	7,11,582	3,10,826
1973-74	9,05,580	3,06,085
1974-75	11,82,198	7,38,840
Total	42,24,625	18,38,822



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## STATEMENT I (a)

## Receipts (in Rupees) Municipal Board, Ballia

Reference Page No. 176

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realization under special Acts	Revenue			Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Total of all other heads	Total
			derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation						
1966-67	2,86,381	17,257	1,95,825	1,81,417	18,247	86,228	7,85,356		
1967-68	2,87,447	16,459	2,77,651	1,97,866	19,347	1,04,235	9,03,005		
1968-69	3,27,855	16,666	3,10,418	2,17,899	18,414	1,94,000	10,85,253		
1969-70	3,48,685	21,591	3,19,729	3,70,573	38,681	2,66,050	13,05,319		
1970-71	3,69,229	24,943	2,90,571	3,37,687	34,789	1,40,484	11,97,713		
1971-72	4,26,697	21,794	2,75,509	5,59,096	73,770	1,53,201	15,10,057		
1972-73	6,30,742	31,296	3,13,068	1,97,769	46,939	4,26,014	16,45,848		
1973-74	6,84,539	40,514	3,50,113	35,925	63,653	19,316	12,24,612		
1974-75	5,36,151	36,704	4,48,685	4,26,283	65,117	20,311	15,33,256		
1975-76	8,87,182	38,513	5,36,133	2,19,489	80,219	88,951	18,49,787		

## STATEMENT I (b)

## Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Ballia

Reference Page No. 176

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and convenience	Public instructions	Contributions	Miscellaneous all other heads	Total of Total expenditure	
1986-87	46,700	22,499	3,06,131	1,46,839	191	2,66,885	47,467	8,36,712
1987-88	54,081	27,469	2,74,403	1,16,945	—	3,26,300	1,10,243	9,09,447
1988-89	50,946	33,288	2,35,345	1,40,949	—	3,35,040	2,52,806	9,68,374
1989-90	78,180	39,943	2,31,952	1,56,785	—	3,91,623	2,78,922	11,76,405
1990-91	61,674	30,884	2,60,703	2,09,350	—	4,11,689	2,37,075	12,11,315
1991-92	57,388	36,255	2,93,781	1,93,820	—	4,84,436	2,59,250	13,23,930
1992-93	66,216	29,872	2,18,193	1,06,625	9,205	5,58,042	5,64,802	15,52,955
1993-94	81,448	22,776	3,15,840	1,743	100	4,19,316	1,53,875	8,97,098
1994-95	1,67,216	38,856	9,26,928	398	21,124	4,30,287	1,29,026	17,13,835
1995-96	1,32,586	31,464	8,56,114	—	18,410	5,04,145	1,75,137	17,17,856

## STATEMENT II

## Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Baraigon

Reference Page No. 176

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)			Expenditure (in Rupees)				
	Govt. Grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration of collection charges	Lighting arrangement works	Public expenditure	Total expenditure
1972-73	26,898	10,133	9,131	46,162	11,983	1,761	31,960	47,884
1973-74	31,141	25,502	8,389	65,032	25,515	2,230	35,577	67,830
1974-75	22,605	7,528	7,222	37,355	45,704	299	15,692	62,102
1975-76	20,183	17,494	6,291	43,968	24,520	988	10,900	36,408

STATEMENT III  
Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Biltharoad

Reference Page No. 177

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)			Expenditures (in Rupees)				Total
	Govt. Grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	General administration of collection charges	Lighting arrangement works	Public works	Other expenditure	
1968-69	—	—	—	31,056	—	—	—	12,390
1969-70	—	—	—	34,075	—	—	—	16,908
1970-71	—	—	—	11,728	—	—	—	35,702
1971-72	—	—	—	39,125	—	—	—	20,735
1972-73	—	—	—	76,187	—	—	—	49,766
1973-74	—	—	—	67,951	—	—	—	92,363
1974-75	—	—	—	99,674	—	—	—	1,37,701
1975-76	—	—	—	75,157	—	—	—	90,811

## STATEMENT IV

## Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area, Rasra

Reference Page No. 177

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)			Expenditure (in Rupees)				
	Govt. Grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration of collection charges	Public health	Public works	Other expenditure
								Total expenditure
1971-72	64,345	23,021	—	87,366	—	—	—	67,957
1972-73	95,427	43,200	—	1,38,627	—	—	—	1,40,458
1973-74	66,684	51,700	—	1,18,384	—	—	—	1,00,380
1974-75	32,810	11,812	—	44,622	—	—	—	1,24,033
1975-76	30,289	48,192	—	78,481	—	—	—	1,04,534

*Receipts and Expenditure, Town Area Reoti*

Reference Page No. 177

Receipts (in Rupees)				Expenditures (in Rupees)					
Year	Govt. Grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration of collection charges	Lighting arrangement	Public works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1969-70	29,317	3,677	5,639	38,633	1,171	8,523	36,237	2,443	48,374
1970-71	37,065	5,177	3,956	46,198	1,639	7,913	25,398	178	35,128
1971-72	38,157	3,537	4,423	46,117	2,036	10,465	28,506	699	41,709
1972-73	21,438	6,380	3,874	31,692	1,517	11,926	52,189	1,948	67,580
1973-74	37,127	8,993	4,319	50,439	3,736	20,398	12,153	4,052	40,339
1974-75	24,753	4,364	15,969	45,086	3,253	23,457	42,780	9,021	78,511
1975-76	27,034	6,148	3,998	37,180	3,136	22,005	14,231	2,986	42,360



STATEMENT VI  
Receipts and Expenditure, Notified Area Maniar

Reference Page No. 178

Year	Receipts (in Rupees)			Expenditure (in Rupees)					
	Govt Grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration of collection charges	Public health works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure	
1968-69	27,051	5,882	5,704	38,637	1,982	6,899	24,296	409	33,586
1969-70	18,887	4,154	4,232	27,273	1,907	7,265	23,967	1,119	34,258
1970-71	19,980	6,523	4,729	31,232	2,196	5,849	25,723	703	34,471
1971-72	38,494	4,360	6,073	48,927	2,676	6,040	21,193	610	30,519
1972-73	41,904	24	4,911	46,839	1,110	4,701	17,880	1,361	25,052
1973-74	25,081	9,027	6,753	40,861	3,060	12,081	16,106	2,349	33,606
1974-75	25,064	4,889	9,570	39,523	3,149	24,332	32,305	1,051	60,837
1975-76	86,069	15,076	6,422	1,07,567	5,386	25,126	15,605	42,654	88,771

## STATEMENT VII

## Receipts and Expenditure. Notified Area Sikan darpur

Reference Page No. 179

Receipts (in Rupees)				Expenditures (in Rupees)				
Year	Govt. Grants	Receipts from taxes	Other receipts	Total receipts	General administration of collection health charges	Public health works	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1970-71	—	—	—	28,930	—	—	—	30,223
1971-72	—	—	—	45,414	—	—	—	39,603
1972-73	—	—	—	34,329	—	—	—	31,288
1973-74	—	—	—	49,679	—	—	—	60,219
1974-75	—	—	—	36,349	—	—	—	30,636
1975-76	—	—	—	76,661	—	—	—	35,045

STATEMENT VIII (a)  
Receipts (in Rupees) Zila Parishad, Ballia

Reference Page No. 181

	Govt. grants	Education (including industrial and technical	Medical and public health	cattle pounds	Fairs and exhibitions	Other sources	Total receipts
1966-67	48,19,768	2,00,722	1,093	8,005	25,312	67,121	51,22,021
1967-68	53,89,667	2,04,493	1,450	5,192	35,984	1,50,404	57,37,190
1968-69	55,56,274	2,25,015	2,206	13,640	57,680	71,973	59,26,788
1969-70	82,79,581	2,32,805	2,375	8,220	41,800	1,49,953	87,14,800
1970-71	77,52,014	2,55,440	2,248	7,356	42,230	74,669	81,35,957
1971-72	1,33,04,520	3,67,612	3,161	4,865	48,675	5,75,580	1,43,04,313
1972-73	53,86,641	1,25,595	3,773	4,666	51,589	5,61,198	61,33,484
1973-74	19,35,074	—	2,548	4,745	76,332	2,39,791	22,58,490
1974-75	5,63,913	—	912	5,169	65,436	3,99,021	10,34,451
1975-76	7,02,366	—	2,964	6,333	99,692	4,12,783	12,24,138

STATEMENT VIII(b)  
Expenditure (in Rupees) Zila Parishad, Ballia

Reference Page No. 181

Year	General administration and collection charges	Education (including industrial and technical)	Medical and public health	Public works	Fairs and exhibitions	Other expenditure	Total expenditure
1966-67	65,180	45,78,709	1,06,795	2,43,236	10,000	86,668	50,90,588
1967-68	61,106	48,99,965	1,11,721	3,44,444	11,460	2,18,834	56,47,530
1968-69	91,962	53,37,296	1,11,802	6,12,368	15,190	57,806	62,32,424
1969-70	79,571	71,09,638	1,06,117	4,66,725	29,466	21,106	78,12,623
1970-71	63,021	69,79,963	1,19,349	7,36,535	6,278	1,56,214	80,61,360
1971-72	69,675	81,40,623	1,25,527	15,30,059	6,926	32,487	99,05,297
1972-73	84,190	47,60,558	1,37,312	23,43,152	11,663	14,67,861	88,04,736
1973-74	1,57,829	65,525	1,23,171	39,53,110	14,789	1,06,378	44,20,902
1974-75	1,77,535	24	2,08,327	6,29,982	20,000	5,07,031	15,42,899
1975-76	1,79,379	510	1,56,499	4,07,519	25,000	4,86,730	12,55,637

## CHAPTER XV

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In ancient days, the area covered by the present district of Ballia is credited with having been associated with great rishis who might have established a number of *ashramas* (hermitages) in the region. One such is known as *Bhrigu ashrama*. The name of Ballia, according to local derivation, is from Valmiki, who is said to have had his hermitage there.<sup>1</sup> Not only the town of Ballia but other spots in this district are also linked with the names of celebrated sages. Bhalsand is traditionally accepted as having derived its name from one of the greatest sages, Bharadvaja of Prayaga, who lived here for some time<sup>2</sup> and Dhuband is supposed to be a corruption of "*Durvasa ashrama*", the name of the abode of Durvasa, a noted *rishi*, who lived here.<sup>3</sup> Khaira Dih is presumed to have been the residence of another great sage, Jamadagni.<sup>4</sup> It follows, then, that *ashramas*, hermitages and *gurukulas* existed in this region for imparting education. Education in those days was regarded as essential is being conducive to healthy living.<sup>5</sup> Education for children began at home at the age of five, with the ceremony of *vidyarambha*.<sup>6</sup> After the initiation ceremony known as *upanayana*, (going to the teacher) the pupils resided with the guru and had to lead the chaste life of a *brahmachari*. Their principal duties were studying and serving the teacher. Having constant association with the guru, the pupil was grounded in moral and intellectual training. The formation of the character and the development of personality formed the backbone of this system.<sup>7</sup> The pupil was allowed to pursue the subjects of his own choice accompanied by special teaching of the *Vedas*<sup>8</sup> and the traditional branches of learning but other and secular branches of study were not neglected.<sup>9</sup> In addition, children were trained in their family's traditional profession within the family itself. Training in the arts and crafts was given by skilled craftsmen at their homes which functioned as training centres much like the apprenticeship system.<sup>10</sup> The collective interests of a particular craft were watched and administered to by the organisation called the *Sreni*.<sup>11</sup>

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- 1 Fisher, F.H. : *Statistical, Descriptive and Historical Account of the North-Western Provinces, Ballia District*, p. 88; Fuhrer, A. : *The Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, p. 190
  - 2 *Ibid.*, p. 192; Fisher, *op. cit.*, p. 97
  - 3 *Ibid.*, p. 103
  - 4 Fuhrer, A. : p. 194
  - 5 Altekar, A. S. : *Education in Ancient India*, p. 260
  - 7 Mookerji, R.K. : *Ancient Indian Education*, p. 173
  - 8 Majumdar, R.C. : *Ancient India*, pp. 91-92
  - 9 Altekar, *op. cit.*, pp. 91-92; 264
  - 10 Majumdar, *op. cit.*, p. 92; Mookerji, *op. cit.*, p. 55
  - Altekar, *op. cit.*, p. 23
  - 11 Rawat, P.L. : *History of Indian Education*, p. 57

Sites of Buddhist monasteries indicate that the Buddhist system of education also obtained. It comprised the giving of recitations holding examinations, making exhortations and explaining the Dhamma. Individual education had given way to collective attention.<sup>1</sup>

The *gurukula* system of education seems to have continued in the district with occasional modifications, till about the advent of the Muslims.<sup>2</sup>

The early Muslim historians have made little reference to this tract. At the end of the fourteenth century, the area comprised by the district came under the domination of the Sharqi rulers of Jaunpur.<sup>3</sup> But no specific source material is traceable as regards the growth of education in this area during that and the successive periods.

In the mediaeval period, the *gurukulas* degenerated into *pathshalas* in this region (as in other parts of the State). *Pathshalas* were attached to the temples and in addition to the subjects that were taught (such as elementary Sanskrit and grammar, astrology, mathematics, etc.) students were also initiated into preparation for the priesthood.<sup>4</sup>

When the Muslims settled in this region, they established their own institutions known as *maktabs*, which were attached to the mosques, the courses of studies generally covering the Islamic religion and theology.<sup>5</sup> There also came into being elementary and secular schools in which reading, writing and a little arithmetic was taught through the medium of the local dialect as Kaithi and Mundia.<sup>6</sup>

For many years after the introduction of British rule, *pathshalas* and *maktabs* were the only schools that existed. There were also some schools of a commercial type for the children of the business community. In these institutions, paid teachers taught mental and practical arithmetic and the Mundia and the Kaithi scripts were in use.<sup>7</sup> These institutions received no official support and had precarious existence.<sup>8</sup>

At the time of the formation of the district in 1879, there was an anglo-vernacular school at Ballia with 30 pupils on roll ; there was also a vernacular school each at Rasra, Bansdih, Reoti. Sahatwar and Sikandarpur had 78 village schools, the total number of pupils being about 4,000. As the district officer was interested in the advancement of education in the district, education

1 Majumdar, R.C. and Pusalkar, A.D. (Ed.) : *The History and Culture of the Indian People, The Age of Imperial Unity*, Vol. II, p. 591

2 Rice, J. : *Appendix to the Report of Indian Education Commission of 1882*, p. 73

3 Nevill H.R. : *Ballia-A Gazetteer*, p. 142

4 Rice, *op. cit.*, p. 73

5 Rawat, *op. cit.*, p. 112

6 Rice, *op. cit.* p. 78

7 Hunter, W. : *Report of the Indian Education Commission of 1882*, P. 73

8 Herber, R. : *Narrative of a Journey through the Upper Provinces of India*, Vol. III p. 78

made some progress. The anglo-vernacular school at the headquarters was raised to the aided entrance standard in 1885 and in 1888 it was constituted a government district school. The number of middle schools increased to eight, that at Reoti having been reduced to the upper primary standard, while others were added at Ballia, Bhalsand, Baria and Garwar. The number of primary schools continued to increase. In 1906, there were 103 primary schools under the district board which also gave grants-in-aid to 40 other schools, while nine schools were supported by the municipal board. There were 32 unaided indigenous schools in which Sanskrit, Arabic, Hindi and Urdu were taught. In 1907, the number of schools providing secondary education was 9 with 1,293 students on roll and the number of primary schools was raised to 166 with 7,842 students, including 195 girls. Attention was also given to the teaching of Sanskrit. The Jubilee Sanskrit *pathshala* attached to the district school at Ballia and the Devi Ram *pathshala*, Ballia (a private institution) were aided by the district and municipal boards. Near about 1907, a third Sanskrit *pathshala* was established at Madhobani (in tahsil Ballia).

In 1910, the high school at Ballia was made a provincial high school with over 300 pupils on roll. Till 1911-12, the number of middle schools remained unchanged. The number of primary schools under the district board increased to 108 in addition to 46 schools aided by the district board and 5 schools aided by the municipal board, the number of indigenous schools rising to 96. By the next decade, with the establishment of an anglo-vernacular town school and the L. D. Meston high school (both at Ballia) the number of schools increased to 11. Stress was laid on the English language by establishing two English schools, one at Rasra and the other at Rudrapur but they were meant for lower education. The number of primary schools also went on increasing. The number of literate persons in the district rose from 39,250 in 1921 to 53,689 in 1931, an increase of 37 per cent. By March 31, 1932, the number of educational institutions had risen to 506, of which 490 primary schools and 16 secondary schools had 31,187 and 3,148 students on roll respectively.

### Female Education

In ancient times facilities for female education must have been provided as their participation was indispensable in religious ceremonies and other rituals. The syllabus included the study of Vedic hymns which were necessary for reciting prayers and performing sacrifices. Music and dancing also formed part of the course of the training.<sup>1</sup> With the passage of time only girls of well-to-do families took up literary education. Every girl was given the opportunity of learning the domestic and culinary arts, fine arts and religious lore.<sup>2</sup> As time passed, most of the women became illiterate and lived a more or less domestic life. They received training in cooking, sewing, etc., at home from the members of the family. In the nineteenth century education for girls was neglected and the few girls' schools that did exist in the district were abolished and there was no girls' school in the district till 1907, when ten aided schools were opened. In 1911-12 the number of aided girls' schools decreased to eight with 151 students

1. Mookerji, R. K. : *op. cit.*, p. 105

2. Rawat, P. L. : *op. cit.*, p. 42

but a girls' model school was started at Ballia by the government. Thirty four girls were also studying in boys' schools in 1912. The total number of literate females was 4,126 in 1931 as against 1,923 in 1921. The number of girls studying in primary schools was 3,816 and there were 206 in secondary schools by the end of 1932.

### Growth of Literacy

The earliest known figures pertaining to literacy in the district are those of 1881, when shortly after the formation of the district only 4.1 per cent of the males and 0.1 per cent of the females were literate. In the next decade (from 1891 to 1900) the percentage of literate males and females rose to 6.5 and 0.2 respectively. In 1901, the figures for literacy were 6.6 per cent for males and 0.1 per cent for females. In 1911, literacy among males fell slightly to 5.8 while literacy among females rose to 0.2 per cent. In 1921, the percentage of literacy advanced to 8.8 and 0.5 among males and females respectively. An increase in these percentages was registered in 1931 as 10.6 per cent males and 0.9 per cent females were literate. In 1951, these percentages rose to 21.0 and 3.6 respectively. There was an improvement in both male and female literacy during the decade 1951-1961. The census figures for 1961 reveal that the percentages of literate and educated persons were 31.3 for males and 7.8 for females.

In 1961, the total percentage of literacy in the district was 19.4 against the State average of 17.7. The district ranked 21st in the State in literacy.

The following statement presents a picture of the number of persons of different educational levels and of literates at the time of the census of 1961 :

Level of education	No. of males	No. of females
<b>Urban</b>		
Literature (without educational level)	8,689	4,721
Primary or junior Basic	3,458	1,083
Matriculation or higher secondary	3,275	304
Non-technical diploma equal to degree	14	—
University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree	854	51
Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree		—
Engineering	14	—
Medicine	6	3
Veterinary and dairying	1	—
Teaching	1	1
<b>Rural</b>		
Literate (without educational level)	1,18,365	33,929
Primary or junior Basic	52,765	7,809
Matriculation and above	18,152	264



In 1971, the percentage rose to 33.25 for males and 9.80 for females. Due to better facilities being available, the percentage for males in the urban areas was 51.91 and in the rural areas was 32.29. The percentage for females in the urban areas was 28.25 which was more than triple the percentage in the rural areas, which was 8.97.

#### EDUCATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Under the lead given by Mahatma Gandhi, a programme for the educational improvement of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes was taken up as early as 1937. After the attainment of Independence in 1947, the programme was intensified and in pursuance of it many benefits and incentives were made available to the students of these groups by the State Government such as exemption from tuition fees, stipends, scholarships, financial assistance for the purchase of books and stationery, hostel facilities and relaxation of the upper age limit for admission to certain educational institutions. In 1974-75 the State and Central Governments awarded scholarships amounting to Rs 9,27,984 to 1,258 students of the first two groups studying in the district.

The number of students receiving assistance in one or more of these forms in different categories of schools in 1974-75 is given in the following statement :

Type of Institution	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Junior Basic	291	115	15	51
Senior Basic	1,185	109	492	116
Higher secondary (up to class X)	1,141	46	276	28
Higher secondary (up to class XII)	763	14	83	10

#### General Education

Education starts with the pre-junior Basic or the nursery stage and continues up to the university stage.

#### Pre-Junior Basic Stage

Pre-junior Basic education is imparted to children up to six years of age. The following statement gives a list of some schools

that were meant for nursery education in the district in 1977 :

Name and location	Year of foundation	No. of students	No. of teachers
Montessori school, Ballia	1955	193	6
Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Ballia	1964	323	12
Dayanand Vidya Mandir, Ballia	1968	899	25

### Junior and Senior Basic Stage

Education at the junior and senior Basic stages is based on the Wardha scheme of education initiated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1937, which was adopted by the State Government with certain modifications but it could not gather strength before Independence. The term 'Basic' now includes education at the junior Basic stage from classes I to V and the senior Basic stage from classes VI to VIII. Mahatma Gandhi held that education ought to draw the best out of the pupil's body, mind and spirit. The scheme envisaged free and compulsory education for a term of eight years with the mothertongue as the medium of instruction and the educational process centering round some useful handicrafts so as to channelise the child's creative ability the moment his training began. Every school was to be self-supporting.

Education during both these stages, prior to 1972, was the responsibility of the local bodies in their own jurisdiction—the municipal board in the urban and the Zila Parishad in the rural areas. In order to ensure academic and administrative efficiency and to prevent the evils of mismanagement, Basic education was provincialised under the Basic Shiksha Adhiniyam of 1972 with effect from July 25, 1972, and the control of Basic schools transferred from the local bodies to the board of Basic education headed by a director. The post was abolished in 1974 and the director of education now combines both the offices. Control at the district level is invested in the *zila shiksha samiti* and at the village level in the *gaon shiksha samiti*.

The number of junior and senior Basic institutions located within the district with the figures of enrolment in 1976-77 is given below :

Kind of institution	No. of schools	No. of students		No. of teachers	
		Boys	girls	Men	Women
Junior Basic	1,227	1,58,281	99,842	3,733	715
Senior Basic	208	43,939	6,210	883	93

The figures of schools and students from 1967-68 to 1976-77 are given at the end of the chapter in the Statement I.

### **Reorientation Scheme**

The aims of this scheme are to train students in agriculture, to create in them a feeling for the dignity of labour and to improve the finances of the institutions concerned. The scheme is in force in 79 institutions in the district. The land attached to these institutions is about 161 ha.

### **Secondary Education**

Secondary education now covers education beyond the senior Basic stage up to the end of class XII. With the establishment of the board of high school and intermediate education, U.P., in 1921, the high school and intermediate examinations began to be held at the end of classes X and XII respectively. The district had 83 higher secondary schools with a total enrolment of 57,056 pupils. Except for a few run by the government, these institutions are managed privately with grants-in-aid from the government. A list of these institutions is appended at the end of the chapter. The figures of school and student from 1967-68 to 1976-77 are given in Statement I.

### **Higher Education**

Kunwar Singh Mahavidyalaya, Ballia, was started as a junior high school. It was raised to degree status in 1973-74. It has a library containing 1,695 books. The number of students during 1976-77 was 181 and that of teachers 8.

Sri Murli Manohar Town Post-graduate College, Ballia, was founded in 1955 by Murli Manohar. The college was raised to post-graduate status in 1970. The institution provides hostel facilities and maintains a library. In 1976-77 the number of students was 2,114 which included 74 girls, that of teachers being 111.

Sri Maryada Purshottam Mahavidyalaya, Ratanpura, was established in 1972 by Shiv Shanker Singh and provides education up to the degree standard. It has a library with 1,270 books. The number of students in 1976-77 was 152 which included 6 girls, that of teachers being 7.

Mahavidyalaya, Dube Chhapra, Ballia was founded in 1973 by Amar Nath Misra. It provides education up to the B. A. standard. It maintains a library which has 2,722 books. In 1976-77 the number of students was 222 which included 6 girls, the number of teachers being 9.

Satish Chandra College, Ballia, became a degree college in 1947 and a post-graduate college in 1970. It prepares students for the B. A., B. Sc., M. A., M. Sc. and B. Ed. degrees. It has a library containing 26,052 books. There were 1,207 students on roll during 1976-77 and the teachers numbered 73.

Gulab Devi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Ballia, was started as a junior high school in 1960, was recognised as a high school in 1962,

as an intermediate college in 1965 and as a degree college in 1969. It provides education up to the B. A. stage. It has a library containing 1,898 books and a book bank scheme under which there are 739 books and through which books are lent to students. In 1976-77 it had 10 teachers and 212 students.

Mathura Vidyalaya, Rasra, was founded by Bhagwan Das Agrawal and some others in 1972. The college offers courses in arts up to the degree stage. It maintains a library with 1,765 books. Under the scheme of a book bank there are 370 books. During 1976-77, the college had a strength of 327 students including 33 girls with 6 lecturers on the teaching staff.

Kamala Devi Bajoria, Dubhar, was established in 1959 by Badri Prasad Bajoria and provides education up to the first degree standard. It has a library with 2,573 books. In 1976-77 the number of students was 115 and that of teachers 9.

Sri Bajrang Degree College, Dadarashrama, Sikandrapur, was founded by Sri Ramsinghasan Das in 1972. It prepares students for the bachelor's degree in arts. The number of students during 1977-78 was 254 which included three girls, the number of teachers being 10.

Sri Sudristi Baba Degree College, Raniganj, was raised to degree status in 1972. In 1977-78, the number of students was 260, of which 16 were girls, and that of teachers 8.

### Professional and Technical Education

The Industrial Training Institute, Ballia, was established in 1959. The trainees are awarded a national trade certificate on the successful completion of the training. In 1976-77, the number of trainees was 499.

Vidyavanasthali Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Rasra, was founded in 1976. It awards the degrees of Ayurvedashastri and Ayurvedacharya after the completion of a course of five years. The institution is affiliated to the Akhil Bhartiya Ayurveda Vidya-pith, Delhi. During the year 1976-77, there were 8 students in the first year and 4 teachers on the staff.

### Oriental Education

**Sanskrit**—It is almost certain that in early times in the district education in Sanskrit was imparted in *pathshalas*, *gurukulas* and temples. With the coming of the Muslims, Sanskrit could be taught only in those institutions which survived their onslaught. By the beginning of the present century these institutions were adversely affected as the endowments created to maintain Sanskrit *pathshalas* were gradually employed to run high schools and intermediate colleges. During 1976-77, there were 19 Sanskrit *pathshalas* in the district, which were affiliated to the Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya, Varanasi, and imparted education in Sanskrit and certain other subjects.

Name of institution	Year of establishment	Founder	No. of students	No. of teachers	Standards offered
Jubli Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Ballia	1887	Raghunand Pandey	142	5	Shastri
Sri Mahatapaleswar Hariprapanaramanuja Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Sahatwar	1910	Babu Shital Ram	35	4	Shastri
Sri Devi Prasad Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Ballia	1915	Yamuna Prasad	175	5	Acharya
Parasar Brahmacharya Ashrama Sanskrit Pathshala, Sitaikund	1915	Raghunath Trivedi	28	2	Shastri
Yatanand Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Sikandrapur	1916	Yatanand	50	2	Madhyama
Kalchuri Sanskrit Pathshala, Ballia	1925	Sahjinand Singh	63	3	Madhyama
Paramahansanand Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Haldirampur	1926	Shyam Charan Das	12	2	Madhyama
Hindu Sanskrit Pathshala, Bhimpura	1926	Hardeo Misra	16	3	Acharya
Radha Krishna Sanskrit Pathshala, Sukhpura	1930	Rambhavan Upadhaya	109	4	Shastri
Chitreshwarnath Sanskrit Pathshala, Chitbaragaon	1930	Venketeswar	30	3	Shastri
Srinath Sanskrit Pathshala, Rasra	1938	Mahant Lakshman Giri	61	4	Shastri
Sidheshwarnath Adarsh Sanskrit Pathshala, Kotvanarainpur	1942	Mauni Swami Ji	41	4	Shastri
Amar Sanskrit Pathshala, Nejeri	1950	Shivanand Chaturvedi	84	5	Madhyama
Adarsh Sanskrit Pathshala, Sandvapuri Banbara	1952	Gangeswar Rai	48	2	Madhyama
Adarsh Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Sankirtannagar	1955	Sri 1008 Munishwar-nand Maharaj	38	4	Madhyama
Adarsh Sanskrit Pathshala, Sivankala	1958	Avadhikshor Gupta	18	2	Madhyama
Satya Narain Sanskrit Pathshala, Maniar	1962	Satya Narain Upadhaya	58	3	Madhyama
Dayanand Sanskrit Vidyalaya, Pathola	1972	Jairam Pathak	77	4	Madhyama
Dwawa Sanskrit Prachar Mahavidyalaya, Bairia	1972	Parneshwarnath Singh	77	5	Madhyama

**Arabis**—Madrasa Alia Arabia Rahmania, Rasra, was founded in 1926 by Haji Abdul Ghaffar. It prepares candidates for three Arabic examinations-Maulvi, Alim and Fazil and two Persian examinations Munshi and Kamil. During 1974-75, it was staffed by 5 teachers and had 130 students on roll.

### Libraries

The following statement gives some details of the libraries in 1976 :

Name of library	Year of establish- ment	Name of founder	Number of books	Average number of annual readers
The Bharti Bhawan, Gaeghat	1931	Rajarshi Ram Narain Singh	2,032	3,100
The Hindi Parishad Ashapur Pustakalaya, Chitbaragaon	1945	Dr Mukteshwar Tiwari	3,109	5,029
The Chhatra Pustakalaya Narhi	1948	Lakshmi Shankar Tiwari	3,107	5,024
Sri Avadh Pustakalaya Shahpur Babhnauli	1949	Swami Omkara- nand	2,897	2,500
The Nehru Club and Pustakalaya, Reoti	1959	Dr Bachchalal	1,162	not known
Sri Krishna Sansthan Bajaha	1970	Ram Das Chaudhuri	2,385	16
The Kedar Pustakalaya Majaulia	1973	Uma Shanker Tiwari	1,099	1,000
The Night Club and Library, Reoti	1974	Chaudhuri Barakatulla Khan	689	3,000

### LIST OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS INTERMEDIATE COLLEGES

#### Intermediate Colleges for Boys and Girls

Ramdahin Singh Inter. college, Amghat  
 Dayanand Inter. College, Itaili, Ratanpura  
 Narhari Baba Inter. College, Karnachhapra  
 Rashtriya Inter. College, Karamar  
 Sri Sidhheshwari Nath Inter. College, Kotwa Narainpur

Siddiquia Inter. College, Kotwari  
 Gandhi Inter. College, Khandwa  
 Sri Nath Inter. College, Garhmalpur Sahulai  
 Jangoli Baba Inter. College, Garwar  
 P. D. Inter. College, Gaeghat  
 Sri Annaya Inter. College, Chora  
 Merchant Inter. College, Chitbaragaon  
 Gandhi Inter. College, Chilphahar  
 Bhadaon Inter. College, Thalaipur  
 Mahatma Gandhi Inter. College, Dalan Chappara  
 P.N. Inter. College, Dube Chhapra  
 Ramsinghasan Kisan Inter. College, Dubhar  
 Janta Inter. College, Nagra  
 Shaheed Mangol Pandey Inter. College, Nagwa  
 Yamuna Prasad Inter. College, Vidyabhawan, Narainpur  
 Vanshibazar Inter. College, Vanshibazar, Nawanagar  
 Kunwarsingh Inter. College, Ballia  
 Town Inter. College, Ballia  
 Lakshmiraj Devi Inter. College, Ballia  
 Bansdih Inter. College, Bansdih  
 Mahavir Inter. College, Badilpur  
 D.A.V. Inter. College, Bilthara Road  
 G.M.A.M. Inter. College, Bilthara Road  
 Dwaba Rashtriya Inter. College, Baira  
 Bamkaran Inter. College, Bhimpura  
 Maniar Inter. College, Maniar  
 Paramshansa Inter. College, Majaulia  
 Mala Mahatma Gandhi Inter. College, Malayanagar  
 Behru Inter. College, Ratanpura  
 Ratsar Inter. College, Ratsar  
 Reoti Inter. College, Reoti  
 Sri Ramsaran Inter. College, Sheopur Basantpur  
 Mahant Radhakrishna Inter. College, Sakarpura  
 Rashtriya Inter. College, Sandvapur  
 E. G. A. S. J. Inter. College, Rasra  
 Sri Chain Ram Baba Inter. College, Sahatwar  
 Seva Sangh Inter. College, Suhaon  
 Sri Sudisht Baba Inter. College, Sudishtpuri  
 Gandhi Inter. College, Sikandarpur  
 Sukhpura Inter. College, Sukhpura  
 G. D. B. E. College, Ballia (for girls)

### High School for Boys and Girls

Rajkumar Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Kora  
 Amar Nath Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Khejuri  
 Bachhuram Hiralal Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Chhata  
 Gandhi Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Chhichhor  
 Chhiteshwar Nath Kunwar Singh Uchha Madhyamik  
 Vidyalaya, Chhitauni  
 Acharya Kriplani Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Jamalpur  
 Santpushpa Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Jamuaon  
 Shivprasad Uchha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tika Deori

Madiari Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tajpur  
 Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tari Baragaon  
 Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Nirpur  
 Adarsh Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Narhi  
 Chitbaragaon  
 Narheji Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Narhi Magra  
 Amar Shaheed Sri Kailash Kumar Uchcha Madhyamik  
 Vidyalaya, Naraingarh  
 Janta Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Nawanagar  
 Parashuram Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Pakva Inor  
 Acharya Narendra Deo Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya,  
 Bahuara  
 Sri Shiv Mangal Singh Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya,  
 Beruar Bari  
 Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya,  
 Bhadaon Haldharpur  
 Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalayas Bharauli  
 Adarsh Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Majhawa  
 Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Rampur, Kanungoyan  
 Ram Singh Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Sonwani  
 Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Muran Patti  
 Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Santnagar Dihwan  
 Parasar Brahmacharya Asharam Uchcha Madhyamik Vidya-  
 laya, Sitakund  
 Adarsh Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Siwan Kalan  
 Jayaprakash Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Sewashrama  
 Sanmitra Samaj Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Husainabad  
 Langtu Baba Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Hariban Kalan  
 Shaim Sundari Balika Uchcha Mahavidyalaya, Bilthara Road  
 Balika Uchcha Mahavidyalaya, Rasra

सत्यमेव जयते



STATEMENT I  
Basic and Secondary Education

Reference Page No. 200

Year	Junior Basic education			Senior Basic education			Higher secondary education		
	Schools	Students		Schools	Students		Schools	Students	
		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
1967-68	1,195	2,04,929	53,115	161	31,242	4,080	70	20,283	879
1968-69	1,206	1,32,928	78,976	173	26,121	4,236	71	37,726	3,032
1969-70	1,197	1,33,738	79,866	173	37,599	4,756	76	38,744	3,225
1970-71	1,189	1,32,606	86,360	176	50,871	6,612	76	26,646	1,296
1971-72	1,206	1,37,232	90,256	176	49,231	6,561	77	28,193	1,465
1972-73	1,191	1,40,333	91,750	176	49,687	7,210	77	27,595	1,561
1973-74	1,200	1,42,835	93,455	197	50,531	7,603	80	28,923	1,741
1974-75	1,227	1,48,165	99,835	208	36,897	5,683	82	44,417	4,665
1975-76	1,227	1,51,219	99,896	208	38,478	5,769	83	46,966	5,246
1976-77	1,227	1,58,281	99,842	208	43,939	6,210	83	50,086	6,970

## CHAPTER XVI

### MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EARLY TIMES

No direct reference is available which can throw light on the medical facilities available in very early times in the district but it is reasonable to presume that, in common with other people of early times, the people of the district believed that evil spirits and demonic forces were responsible for bringing about states of ill-health by contaminating the air, food, etc. In order to neutralise these evil spirits, friendly spirits, deities or gods, were propitiated. The early healer or physician (a man supposed to be endowed with supernatural gifts of healing) who was assigned the task of attempting to dislodge the evil spirits from the bodies of the ailing, employed the method of chanting verses, indulging in sacrificial rites, advocating the wearing of amulets or charms, etc.

The science of Ayurveda was the system of medicine practised by the physicians of the district (known as *vaid*s who used herbal and other medicines and possessed some surgical knowledge as well. Medical care was not treated as the responsibility of the State but it was left to be assumed as a duty by individuals, proficient in the arts of healing. Ayurveda and the Unani system of medicine (Tib) were the two in common practice. The practitioners of these systems were not numerous but they were easily accessible to the sick. Their incapacity to alleviate suffering on a mass scale or induce quick recovery in many cases was exploited by soothsayers who, sometimes, brought miraculous relief to their clients. Minor surgical operations were performed by *jarrahs* (barber surgeons).

For several ailments, particularly those of women and children, there was hardly any remedy and infirmities like insanity, blindness, deaf-mutism and leprosy were almost beyond cure. Customary services were rendered by *dais* (untrained native mid-wives) at the time of child-birth. Environmental sanitation seldom received proper attention. When the British took possession of the district in 1781, they introduced the western system of medicine, allopathy, and the first allopathic dispensary was established at Rasra in 1879. Having the patronage of government it became progressively popular leaving the Ayurvedic and Unani systems far behind.

#### VITA STATISTICS

An examination of the vital statistics of the district reveals that the death-rate in normal year is generally lower than the birth-rate. From 1881-1890 the average death-rate was 24.63 per thousand, the highest figure being 28 in the latter year. For the ensuing decade the average was 26.12, the rise being due to the

abnormal mortality of 1894, when the rate rose to 40.24 per thousand, because of a large number of deaths from fever and a drastic outbreak of cholera. From 1901 to 1905 the average rate was slightly over 40 per thousand, a result due to the fearful ravages caused by plague, which accounted for more than 51,000 deaths in four years. Such a state of affairs was accidental and the true mean death-rate of the district, estimated from the average of the period prior to the appearance of this scourge, was 25.4 per thousand from 1881 to 1900. The average birth-rate was 30.3 per thousand and for the next ten years 31.65, while from 1901 to 1905 the figure rose to 36.2, in spite of the high death-rate of that period. The only years when the number of deaths exceeded that of births were 1891 and 1894, both of epidemics, as also in 1903 and the following years when plague wrought havoc among the population. The highest birth-rate was 42.17 per thousand in 1899 and the lowest 24.82 in 1895, following on a year of exceptional unhealthiness.

The state of affairs prevailing from the beginning of the present century is indicated in the following statement :

Decade	Birth-rate (per thousand)	Death-rate (per thousand)
1901-1910	32.45	40.14
1911-1920	35.84	34.05
1921-1930	34.56	28.19
1931-1940	26.0	14.08
1941-1950	19.5	12.00
1951-1960	27.55	17.01

Plague struck in 1902, 1904 and 1905 followed by an epidemic of malaria in 1901 and 1905, causing a great deal of mortality all over the district. The years 1913, 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1920 were healthy, 1919 less so, 1911 and 1912 unhealthy, 1914 and 1918 very unhealthy and 1920 excessively so. In the next decade, that from 1921 to 1930, the birth-rate was higher than the death-rate, and though the birth-rate progressed during the next decade (1931 to 1940) the death-rate regressed. During 1941-50 the birth-rate was steep and the death-rate continued to fall, though not so sharply. In the next decade (1951-60) the death-rate regressed.

## DISEASES

### Common Diseases

Formerly the diseases which commonly caused deaths were cholera, smallpox, plague, fevers, bowel disorders and respiratory troubles. Epidemics have been largely controlled but other diseases still claim a sizable percentage of the total number of deaths in the district. Fever includes such diseases as malaria and typhoid but also covers many unidentified diseases of which fever is only a symptom. In early times, the greatest curse of the district and the commonest cause of death was the prevalence of malaria fever.

some parts of the district, mainly the lowing area along the belt in the north, were the active breeding grounds of malaria mosquitoes, which from 1881 to 1890 recorded about 83.7 per cent of the total deaths and 81 per cent during the following decade. The disease has now been controlled. Respiratory diseases come next in importance to fevers, the chief ones being pneumonia and pulmonary tuberculosis, the next to follow being water-borne diseases such as dysentery and diarrhoea. Deaths also occur from injuries, snake-bites etc.

The following statement gives the number of deaths in certain years, due to various causes excluding epidemic diseases.

Year	Fevers	Respiratory diseases	Dysentery and diarrhoea	Injuries	Other causes
1941	11,093	124	190	240	1,486
1951	5,915	135	140	53	1,637
1960	1,175	259	428	51	526
1971	2	—	—	—	—
1972	—	—	3	—	—
1973	5	—	3	—	—

#### Other Diseases/Ailments

Veneral diseases, goitre, fungus infections and various other unidentified diseases are also not very uncommon. The number of persons treated from 1970 to 1973 for such ailments was as follows :

Year	Veneral diseases	Goitre	Fungus infection	Unidentified diseases
1970	1,208	245	1,838	14,463
1971	2,647	1,308	1,322	26,104
1972	806	1,044	998	16,841
1973	801	1,060	1,199	23,205

#### Epidemics

**Plague**—Plague, which first made its appearance in the district in 1902, used to be a mass killer in the past. It has now been almost eradicated. Anti-rat campaigns by trapping, baiting and cyano-gassing, anti-flea measures with D.D.T. and anti-plague inoculations have effectively reduced the incidence of this disease. From 1911 onwards the highest mortality figure was 22,154 in 1914 which went in reducing after this. It disappeared after 1941 when it claimed 100 lives.

**Smallpox**—Smallpox has been persisting. Its eradication is now being done with the help of the world health organisation. It has been recurring every now and then sometimes with periodic cyclicity, claiming a heavy toll of life. It also causes blindness and disfigurement in many cases. Smallpox

appears to have been controlled in the district as only 8 deaths from it in 1975.

**Cholera**—Cholera is one of those formidable diseases which take a few lives every year. It sometimes assumes the form of an epidemic. Progress in its control has been relatively slow. It flares up again and again, sometimes in the form of gastro-enteritis. In 1944 and 1945 it appeared in a somewhat severe form causing 2,106 and 3,540 deaths respectively. Disinfection of drinking water, prohibition of the sale of exposed food and anti-cholera inoculations are resorted to when the disease raises its head. The statement that follows gives the number of deaths from epidemic diseases in certain years.

Year	Plague	Smallpox	Cholera
1941	100	199	450
1951	—	—	157
1960	—	—	138
1971	—	8	N. A.
1972	—	123	N. A.
1973	—	53	9
1974	—	76	193

### Organisational Set up

Prior to 1948 there were separate departments for medical and public health activities but they were amalgamated in that year under a directorate for better cohesion and control over the allopathic, Ayurvedic and the Unani institutions and services. In July, 1961, a separate directorate was established at Lucknow, for the development and effective supervision of Ayurvedic and Unani institutions and services. The local administration of these institutions remained in the charge of the district medical officer of health, now designated deputy chief medical officer (health).

Formerly the civil surgeon and the district medical officer of health headed the medical and public health organisations in the district respectively. In July, 1973, the departments of medical and public health were again reorganised in the State, the posts of civil surgeon and district medical officer of health were abolished and a chief medical officer was appointed to head the entire medical, public health and family planning services in the district. He is assisted by three deputy chief medical officers in the urban area at the district headquarters and the superintendents of the district hospital (male) and the women's hospital control the medical health and family planning activities in their respective institutions. The entire supervisory type of health and family planning activities are under the control of the chief medical officer.

At the district headquarters the municipal medical officer of health is responsible for public health activities, within the municipal area. The rural area has been divided amongst the three deputy chief medical officers for the supervision of medical, health and family planning work.

The public health centres in the rural areas are distributed among the deputy chief medical officers. The rural State dispensaries fall under the primary health centres and are also under the deputy chief medical officer concerned.

At the level of the primary health centre, a medical officer is in overall charge of the medical health and family planning activities. He is assisted by another medical officer who looks after the family planning and maternity and child welfare centres.

### Hospitals

The following statement gives some information about the existing hospitals, the number of the staff and the patient treated in them :

Name of hospital	Staff		Number of patients treated	
	No. of doctors	Others	In-door	Outdoor
District male hospital	9	5	5,729	59,184
District women's hospital	4	9	6,184	14,064
Jail hospital	1	3	198	10,530
Police hospital	—	3	223	1,937
Railway hospital	1	3		12,601

### Dispensaries

Allopathic—The following statement gives some particulars about the allopathic dispensaries in the district as in 1975 :

Name of dispensary establishment	Year of	Number		Number of patients treated	
		Doctors	Other	In-door,	Outdoors
Bairia	1898	1	3	76	5,626
Rasara	1900	1	5	601	16,674
Nawanager	1948	1	3	23	5,259
Nawanager (F)	1948	1	3	-	6,894
Navbrar	1948	1	3	-	3,104
Bairja (F)	1948	-	3	82	1,504
Chhata	1956	1	3	-	1,912
Rasra (F)	1958	5	5	685	4,081
Kharsara	1962	1	3	-	7,713
Garhmal pur	1971	1	3	-	3,517
Bansdih	1972	-	3	-	2,270
Sahatwar	1972	1	3	-	10,554
Indaulimalkuli	1973	-	3	-	2,644
Kirihrapur	1973	-	3	-	1,813
Sukhpura	1973	1	3	-	16,621
Nasirpur Kalan	1973	1	3	-	1,912
Sikandarpur (F)	1973	-	3	-	3,286
Sikandarpur	1974	1	3	-	6,894
Sundaram Nager	N. A.	2	-	-	-

**Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic**—There are a number of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic dispensaries in the district. Each Ayurvedic dispensary has a *vaid* (physician) incharge and each Unani dispensary is manned by a *hakim* (physician).

The following statement mentions **the location and** the date of the establishments of these dispensaries :

Location	Year of establishment
<b>Ayurvedic (State)</b>	
Takha	1972
Chakra	1953
Chandra war	1968
Kureji	1960
Nagra	1959
Khandawa	1970
Chitbaragawn	1960
Kotwa Narainpur	1960
Poor	1965
Kathaura	1965
Parsia	1960
Jamalpur	1960
Dubey Chhapra	1960
Siwan Raitda	1960
Reoti	1960
Sahatwar	1960
Dumaria	1973
Khanpur	1973
Ajuera	1975
Sultanpur	1962
Vidya Bhavan	1962
Narainpur	1956
Haripur	1965
<b>Unani</b>	
Dumari	1965
Chanda	1965
Yarbalipur	1965
<b>Homoeopathic</b>	
Tituari	1974
Husenabad	1972
Pachkhora	1976
Parsia T. B.	N.A.
Khandawa	N.A.
<b>Ayurvedic (zila Barishad)</b>	
Barssari	—
Dayachhapra	—
Bharat	—
Sonbarsa	—

**Primary Health Centres**—To extend medical facilities and to improve the standard of health of the rural population, the government has established primary health centres in every development block the number of such centres in the district being 18. Each centre is under the charge of a medical officer. He is assisted by a sanitary inspector, 2 health visitors, a smallpox supervisor, 3 vaccinators and another medical officer exclusively for family planning and maternity and child welfare work.

The following statement gives some particulars about the primary health centres :

Development block	Primary health centre	Year of opening	Number of beds	No. of patients treated
Ratanpur	Ratanpura	1953	4	16,497
Maniar	Maniar	1957	6	16,324
Belahari	Sonwani	1959	4	9,384
Sohaon	Narahi	1963	4	12,646
Garhwar	Ratsar	1963	4	8,068
Bairai	Kotwa	1963	4	12,026
Beruwabari	Beruarbari	1963	4	13,522
Nagra	Nagra	1964	4	8,187
Chilkahar	Chilkahar	1964	4	8,724
Hanumanganj	Yaina	1965	4	11,810
Rasara	Saraibhaorti	1965	4	7,046
Murlichhapra	Murlichhapra	1967	4	5,377
Reoti	Reoti	1967	4	9,355
Pandah	Pandah	1968	4	5,018
Nawanagar	Baghuri	1968	4	6,901
Dubhar	Dubhar	1969	4	12,697
Siar	Sair	1974	-	15,825
	Bansdih	--	-	--

**Maternity and Child Welfare**—Maternity and child welfare activities in the district as elsewhere in the State have come a long way since the days of the untrained *dai* (untrained native midwife). Lack of facilities for ante-natal and post-natal care contributed largely to a higher incidence of mortality among women and children till the late fifties of this century. In 1958, the government established maternity and child welfare centres in the district, their numbers being 74 in 1975 which were attended by midwives and *dais* (untrained native midwives). Each centre has four except Rasra which has one more in its urban area. The centre at the headquarters is the controlling centre for all the others. It is headed by a health visitor, each of the other centres being headed by a *dai* (untrained native midwife). The municipal board, Ballia, also runs a centre, which is manned by a midwife and two *dais* (untrained native midwives).



These centres are equipped with aids and devices to educate women in planned parenthood. Family planning literature and contraceptives are also made available free of cost to married couples. The following statement gives the location of the maternity centres under each primary health centre :

Primary health centre	Maternity and child welfare centres
Ratanpura	Ratanpur, Chakra, Lasra, Bhimhar
Saraibharti	Saraibharti, Rasra (urban), Jam, Mendera, Kotwari
Nagra	Bhimpura, Nagra, Lahsani, Gothai,
Siar	Siar Kiriarpur, Lahsani, Gothai
Chilkhara	Chilkhara, Tikadeuri, Hajuali, Dumari,
Narahi	Narahi, Chitboragawn Bharavli, Surahi
Vaina	Vaina, Karanai, Khoripakar, Bansatpur
Ratsar	Ratsar, Garhwar, Fefna, Mithwar,
Dubhar	Dubhar, Akhar, Chhata, Baghavli,
Sonwani	Sonwani, Haldi, Muradih, Belahari,
Kotwa	Kotwa, Karmanpur, Madhuband, Dayachhapra
Murlichhepra	Murlichhepra, Lalganj, Jaiprakashnagar Kharanchhapra,
Reoti	Reoti, Jharkataha, Chaubeychhapra, Sahatwar,
Bansdih	Bansdih, Deodih, Chandpur, Kharauni,
Beruwarbari	Beruwarbari, V. B. Narainpur, Maritar, Haripur,
Mainar	Mainar, Kajipur, Rampur, Ajnera,
Pandah	Pandah, Poor, Saraiya, Kharsara,
Baghuri	Baghuri, Sikanderpur, Bhanti, Sikiya,

The training of auxiliary nurse-midwives is conducted at the auxiliary nurse-midwife training college at Ballia which was opened in 1972. The educational qualification for admission of trainees is the successful completion of class 8th. Each trainee is given a stipend of Rs per month for a training of two years. About 30 trainees are admitted each year.

### Vaccination

In early days the ravages of smallpox were very extensive and direct inoculation was the sole preventive measure and only those who desired it were vaccinated at government dispensaries. It was not till 1805 that any active measures were taken in this direction and a regular vaccination staff was employed. The measures failed at first to obtain popularity but the number of persons vaccinated annually went up progressively. The Vaccination Act, 1880, which made primary vaccination compulsory for children in municipal areas, notified areas and in a number of town areas, was enforced in the district. In 1900 about 26 000 persons were vaccinated and the number kept going up after this. The chief medical officer is

in charge of the work of vaccination in the district and is assisted by three deputies and some other staff posted at the primary health centres, each of which has two vaccinators. There is, at the district headquarters, an assistant superintendent of vaccination under the Zila Parishad who has under him 18 vaccinators for the rural areas and 5 at the district headquarters. The municipal officer of health (medical) Ballia is responsible for the vaccination work in the municipal area and is assisted by two sanitary inspectors and two vaccinators. The following statement gives the number of persons vaccinated from 1971 to 1975 :

Year	Number of persons Vaccinated	No. of primary Vaccinations		No. of re-vaccinations	
		Successful	Unsuccessful	Successful	Unsuccessful
1971	1,58,559	57,430	2,020	49,480	48,430
1972	1,58,938	52,640	1,836	58,924	52,440
1973	3,66,687	87,720	1,204	93,820	47,350
1974	4,01,114	83,840	1,890	81,430	20,840
1975	2,05,856	47,285	1,624	38,670	29,480

**Eye Relief**—Cataract, glaucoma, trachoma and conjunctivitis are the eye diseases common in the district. There is an eye hospital in Ballia which is a branch of the Sitapur eye hospital. It has 20 and 40 beds for men and women respectively and treated 879 men and 23,522 women in its in-door and out-door sections respectively in 1975-76.

### MALARIA AND FILARIA CONTROL MEASURES

**Malaria Control Measures**—The national malaria control programme was launched in the district in April, 1953, which was diverted to the national malaria eradication programme in 1958-59 for cent per cent coverage of houses and cattle sheds by means of D.D.T. spraying.

In 1965-66 the eradication programme was diverted to the maintenance phase, which is now in operation. The main objective of this phase is watch and vigil so that malaria may not reappear.

**Filaria Control Measures**—A filaria control unit has been functioning in the district since March, 1956. Anti-larval measures to control mosquito density and entomological work to find out the density of vectors and the effect of larvicides are also undertaken. Examination of blood and treatment of positive cases under filaria survey and chemotherapy programmes are carried out. Some information regarding the work done in certain years from 1966 to 1975 appears in the following statement :

Year	Quantity of larvacides used (in litres)	water surface sprayed (sq. m.)	Infecti- vity rate	No. of person examined	No. of case found positive
1966	41,419	20,70,950	2.1	1,445	63
1969	50,494	23,20,164	2.1	1,218	42
1972	39,880	17,85,380	—	—	—
1975	41,816	20,37,991	2.1	455	56

### Family Planning

Family planning work was first undertaken in an organised way in 1960 when a centre was opened a Ballia under the civil surgeon and two in 1961 in the rural areas under the district medical officer of health. In 1962 a centre was opened in each development block. A post of district planning officer was created in 1965-66 and with the reorganisation of the medical and health set up 1973, the designation was changed to that of deputy chief medical officer, the officer serving under the chief medical officer. The district magistrate is in overall charge of the achievement of the family planning targets. In 1968-69 two mobile units were established in the district, one for vasectomy, with a medical officer and a pharmacist, and another for loop insertions, under a women medical officer. Each primary health centre provides family planning, facilities in all its maternity and child welfare centres and six family planning subcentre, each of which is running with a female worker trained as an auxiliary nurse-midwife. The subcentres distribute *nirodh* (a contraceptive) and pills and educate the masses through visual aids, charts, diagraphes, etc.

The work done and the achievement in family planning work in certain years from 1961-62 to 1975-76 is mentioned below :

Year	Sterilization		Number of (loop insertions)
	No. of males	No. of females	
1961-62	18	46	—
1966-67	1,029	4	2,296
1971-72	4,690	59	2,406
1972-73	5,271	34	1,589
1973-74	1,218	418	2,501
1974-75	315	589	2,429
1975-76	1,353	1,006	3,967

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

#### LABOUR WELFARE

After the attainment of Independence, the government launched certain programmes to provide better facilities to the working classes. The labour welfare programmes aim at providing benefits to labour guaranteeing minimum wages, social security like the state insurance of employees, security for old age, collective bargaining through the medium of recognised trade unions, medical and maternity facilities, regulated working hours, payment of bonus for incentive payment of compensation, regulated wages, minimum standards of lighting in factories, etc., ventilation, safety in factories, etc., canteens, recreations leave, holidays, housing, holiday homes, etc.

The district falls in the Allahabad region of the State labour department. At the district level, the duty of the labour inspector stationed at the district headquarters is to see that employers comply with labour laws and enforce labour welfare schemes, launches prosecutions for any infringement and provides the liaison necessary between employees and employers. The factories inspector also inspects factories under the Factories Act, 1948. Payment of Wages Act, 1936, etc. and takes necessary action against employers failing to comply with the laws. There are eight boilers in the district which are supervised by the inspector of boilers.

The State and Central Governments have passed a number of legislations for the benefit of labourers and their families and to protect their interests. The government took more interest in promoting the welfare of the labour class after Independence in 1947. Though most of the labour legislations were enacted after 1947, certain Acts, passed before then such as the Indian Boilers Act, 1922, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Indian Trade Union's Act, 1926, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employment of Children Act, 1938, the U. P. Maternity Benefits Act, 1947 and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, still operate, with their amendments. The Acts enacted after 1947, which are also applicable to the district, are the U. P. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Factories Act, 1948, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, the U. P. Industrial Establishment (National Holidays) Act, 1961, the U. P. Dock and Wharf Employees' Adhivishan Adhiniyam, 1962, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 1968.

In 1975, the number of contraventions of some of the above mentioned Acts, was 1,062 and 96 prosecutions were launched. The various Acts under which these were carried out are as follows :

Act	No. of contraventions	No. of prosecutions
Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946	4	Nil
Factories Act, 1948	6	Nil
Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961	2	Nil
U. P. Dookan Avam Vanijya Adhishthan Adhiniyam, 1962	704	46
Minimum Wages Act, 1948	320	48
Payment of Bonus Act, 1965	5	Nil
Beedis and Cigar Workers Act, 1968	21	2

The figures of the amount of compensation which was paid in the five years ended 1975 under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to labourers or their dependents, on being involved in accidents in the course of employment resulting in disablement or death, is stated below :

Fatal cases			Disablement cases	
Year	No. of cases	Amount of compensation paid (in Rs)	No. of cases	Amount of compensation paid (in Rs)
1970-71	4	28,976	—	—
1971-72	2	11,800	—	—
1972-73	2	14,000	1	6,978
1973-74	2	15,997	—	—
1974-75	4	32,984	—	—

#### OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

The old-age pension scheme came into force in 1957 to provide some financial help to destitutes having no means of subsistence and no relations bound by custom or usage to support them. To begin with assistance was given to those persons, who were helpless and had an income of not more than Rs 15 per month and were above 60 years of age, in the case of women and above 65 years, in the case of men the amount of the monthly pension being Rs 20. The scheme was liberalised in January, 1972, the rate of the monthly pension being raised to Rs 30. The benefits of this scheme are not available to beggars, mendicants and inmates of poor-houses. The pension is sanctioned by the labour commissioner after verification of particulars and on the recommendation of the district officer. On July 31, 1975, the number of recipients was 160 of which 131 were women and the rest men.

## PROHIBITION

Though the district is not a dry area, some steps have been taken to discourage addicts from indulging in the drinking habit. Efforts by official and non-official agencies continue to propagate among the people the benefits of abstinence. Government efforts include restriction on the hours of sale of spirituous liquor and intoxicants, fixation of the maximum quantity of liquor which can be sold to an individual at a time and increasing the price of liquor and the excise duty on it. The persuasive methods used are educating the public against the use of intoxicants through mass contacts and social and moral pressure.

There is a prohibition and uplift committee in the district with the district magistrate as its president. The workers of the committee hold public meetings and organize camps and stalls in the local fairs and exhibitions, distribute bills, posters and literature to the public and exhort the people to abstain from consuming intoxicants, etc.

The excise shops of the district have to remain closed every Tuesday and on principal festivals like Holi, Dipavali, etc., and also on dates of important events like Independence Day (August 15) Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (October 2) and Republic Day (January 26).

## ADVANCEMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

Members of the Scheduled Castes were considered to belong to the depressed classes and to be out castes. Social workers have always striven to better their lot but the British government took little interest in their welfare. A half-hearted beginning was made in 1930 when a scheme was formulated for the award of stipends to students belonging to these castes but it was only with the advent of Independence that concrete steps were taken for their amelioration and the U. P. Removal of Social Disabilities Act, 1947, was passed which ensured to the members of such castes the unrestricted enjoyment of social and religious liberties.

The State Harijan *sahauk* department was set up in 1950 to formulate and implement schemes for the welfare of the members of these groups. In 1957, a district Harijan welfare officer was posted in the district to look after the work entailed in the implementation of these schemes.

The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, came into force in the State in June, 1955. It has rendered the practice of untouchability an offence punishable under the Act. It repealed the corresponding State Act of 1947. The State Government threw open all avenues of employment to members of these castes and major steps were taken for their adequate representation in the services.

In 1953, the reservation for the Scheduled Castes in government services was raised from 10 to 18 per cent. In 1955, the upper age limit for the candidates of these castes was raised by five years for gazetted posts as had been done for non-gazetted posts in 1952.

In 1961, the Harijan *sahayak* and social welfare departments were amalgamated. The designation of the district Harijan welfare officer was changed to that of district Harijan and social welfare officer. His main functions are to watch the interests of the members of these castes and to implement the schemes formulated by the government for their welfare and amelioration.

Government keeps a watch on the progress in the recruitment of Scheduled Caste candidates to various post and has repeatedly emphasised that the prescribed percentage for filling up the posts by them must be adhered to.

The government sanctions advances and loans to members of these castes and Scheduled Tribes for various purposes such as agriculture, industry and the construction of houses, etc. For the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes government has spent a sum of Rs 30,500 on the construction of houses ; Rs 80,000 on cottage industries ; Rs 74,500 on the construction of wells ; and Rs 63,860 on agricultural development during the Fourth Five-year Plan period. The details of the main heads on which government incurred expenditure during the five year ended 1975-76 are given below ;



सत्यमेव जयते

Head of expenditure	1971-72		1972-73		1973-74		1974-75		1975-76	
	Amount spent (in Rs)	No of beneficiaries	Amount spent (in Rs)	No of beneficiaries	Amount spent (in Rs)	No of beneficiaries	Amount spent (in Rs)	No of beneficiaries	Amount spent (in Rs)	No of beneficiaries
Drinking water (wells)	10,000	10	40,000	40	40,000	52	—	—	—	—
Housing	23,000	23	23,000	23	27,000	27	42,000	42	41,000	41
Cottage industries	8,000	16	24,000	65	4,600	9	—	—	2,000	5
Agriculture	8,000	16	18,500	37	11,500	23	18,500	33	16,000	16
Purchase of house site	—	—	2,000	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rehabilitation of displaced tribes	—	—	—	—	—	—	50,000	10	—	—
Post-matric scholarship	48,000	1,036	5,35,472	1,222	5,72,267	1,074	9,35,849	1,381	11,52,129	1,536



Since Independence, much stress has been laid on the advancement of education among the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes by the government. There is provision for the free education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students up to the higher stages of education and they are also given scholarship and books.

The following statement gives the number of students of the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes who received various educational facilities during the year 1974-75 :

Educational stage	Scheduled Castes		Other Backward Classes		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Junior Basic	291	115	15	51	472
Senior Basic	1,185	109	492	116	1,902
Higher Secondary (upto Class X)	1,141	46	276	28	1,491
Higher Secondary (upto Class XII)	763	14	83	10	870

The Central Government spent Rs 54,497 and the State Government Rs 38,387 on scholarships to the students of the Scheduled Castes, Denotified Tribes and Other Backward Classes during the year 1974-75. The statement below gives the number of students benefited by the scholarships and the amount spent in 1974-75 :

Agency awarding scholarship	No. of Students benefited				Expenditure (in Rs)
	Scheduled Castes	Denotified Tribes	Other Backward Classes	Momin Ansars	
Central Government	851	9	67	12	5,44,597
State Government	407	1	23	13	38,387
	1,258	10	90	25	5,82,984

#### CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

There are a number of trusts in the district which are endowed for charitable and educational purposes. Relevant particulars of some of them are given in the following table :

Trust	Date of foundation	Name of founder	Annual income (in rupees)	Objectives
D. T. Roberts Memorial scholarship endowment Trust	24-10-1927		113	For scholarships to meritorious students
L. D. Meston high school trust	8-1-1923	Mahant Satish Chandra Gir of Tarkeshwar Bengal	2,819	Maintenance of school
Bakshram scholarship and Sujan medal endowment trust	15-5-1925		26	For scholarships to meritorious students
Ram Daur and Shaw scholarship and Lalji Misra medical endowment trust	1-12-1925		26	For scholarships and medals to meritorious students
Shaw pilgrims trust Ballia	5-5-1930	Rai Bahadur Babu Batuk Prasad Khatri	29	To help pilgrims

### Muslim Waqfs

There are 36 Sunni waqfs (trusts) in the district which are registered with the U. P. Sunni Central Board of waqfs. The statement below gives some particulars of important waqfs in the district.

Name of waqf	Date of foundation	Name of founder	Annual income (in Rs)	Objectives
Masjid Rasra Munsifi	—	Not known	8,091	Charitable
Masjid Mohalla Bishenpur	—	Not known	3,776	Charitable
Qadir Bux and Others	—	Not known	22,301	Charitable

## WELFARE OF EX-SERVICEMEN

For the welfare of ex-servicemen there is a district soldier's, sailors' and airmen's board in this district, which was established in 1945. It works under the control and supervision of the director soldiers, welfare, U. P. The work of the board in the district is supervised by a secretary who is a paid employee and an ex-servicemen. The board, as elsewhere, provides various facilities to ex-servicemen and their families and assists in their rehabilitation. These facilities include pensions, scholarships, relief grants employment, medical treatment settlement of accounts permits for purchase of controlled commodities, settlement of disputed cases, etc.

The assistance rendered to ex-servicemen during the five years ended 1975 was as shown in the following statement :

*No. of Ex-servicemen Who Received Help*

Year	*Financial assistance given	*Stipends/ books/aid given	Family pension cases	Medical treatment given	Clothes given	employment afforded
1971	62 (Rs 8,446)	470 (Rs 35,895)	9	29	—	45
1972	86 (Rs 26,765)	680 (Rs 45,520)	16	37	—	24
1973	55 (Rs 11,560)	787 (Rs 52,530)	18	43	61	13
1974	131 (Rs 16,163)	803 (Rs 44,130)	14	22	41	27
1975	220 (Rs 14,223)	464 (Rs 36,973)	12	18	89	13

\*Data in brackets show total amount distributed

National awards for outstanding gallantry were given to the following persons :

Name and rank of person	Village and tahsil	Name of national award	Year of award
Lance/Naik Ram	Village Sawan	Vir-Chakra	1948
Tapesa Singh	Tahsil Rasra		
Naib/Subedar	Village Raksha	Vir-Chakra	1971
Bhrigunath Singh	Tahsil Bansdih		

## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

#### REPRESENTATION OF DISTRICT IN LEGISLATURES

##### Political Parties

The district has several political organisations of all-India or State level. It is difficult to assess the numerical strength of their members, which fluctuates from time to time. The important political parties active in the district are the Indian National Congress, the Congress (Organisation), the Akhil Bhartiya Jan Sangh, the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party Marxist, the Socialist Party, the Swatantra Party and the Bhartiya Lok Dal.

The Indian National Congress was divided into two groups in 1969, the Congress (Organisation) and the Congress (Ruling) which became known as the Indian National Congress.

##### Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

For the general elections to the Legislative Assembly in 1952, the district was divided into seven constituencies—those of Ballia (East), Ballia (Central); Ballia (North-East)-cum-Bansdih (South-West); Bansdih (West); Bansdih (Central); Rasra (East)-cum-Ballia (South-West) and Rasra (West). The constituency of Rasra (East)-cum-Ballia (South-West) was a double-membered one having one seat reserved for a Scheduled Castes candidate.

The results of the general elections held in 1952 were as follow :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Number of valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	4	—	10,774
Communist Party of India	3	—	16,500
Hindu Mahasabha	1	—	847
Indian National Congress	8	7	79,092
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	7	—	20,969
Ram Rajya Parishad	1	—	889
Swatantra Party of India	7	—	46,666
Uttar Pradesh Revolutionary		—	14,291
Socialist Party	2		
Independents	18	1	54,918

For the general elections of 1957, the constituencies were delimited in 1956 and the district was divided into the seven constituencies of Kopachit, Ballia, Duaba, Bansdih (East); Bansdih (West), Sikandarpur and Rasra. Rasra remained a double-member constituency with one seat reserved for a Scheduled Castes candidate.

The following statement gives the result of the general elections of 1957 :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	No. of seats won	Number of Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	8	—	24,303
Communist Party of India	5	—	79,225
Indian National Congress	8	7	1,36,625
Praja Socialist Party	8	1	81,347
Independents	14	—	71,387

Before the general elections of 1962, the constituencies again underwent delimitation and eight single-member constituencies were instituted—Rasra, Siar, Sikandarpur, Bansdih (West), Bansdih (East), Duaba, Ballia and Kopachit, Rasra being a reserved constituency for a Scheduled Castes candidate.

The following statement gives the results of the elections of 1962 :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	5	—	10,004
Communist Party of India	6	1	53,084
Indian National Congress	8	5	1,37,011
Praja Socialist Party	6	1	70,100
Socialist Party of India	5	1	25,776
Swatantra Party of India	1	—	911
Independents	7	—	39,529

For the Assembly elections of 1967, the number of constituencies remained the same as for the elections of 1962 and Rasra remained a constituency reserved for a candidate of the Scheduled Castes.

The following statement gives the results of the assembly elections of 1967 :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	No. of seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	8	2	55,098
Communist Party of India	5	1	40,124
Communist Party (Marxist)	5	—	12,455
Indian National Congress	8	3	1,10,399
Praja Socialist Party	7	—	13,529
Samyukta Socialist Party of India	7	1	59,387
Swatantra Party of India	5	—	15,139
Independents	24	1	94,387

President's rule was imposed in the State on February 25, 1968. A mid-term poll was held in February, 1969. The number of constituencies in the district, was eight namely Rasra (reserved for the Scheduled Castes), Siar, Chilkahar, Sikandarpur, Bansdih, Duaba, Ballia and Kopachit, all of which were single-member constituencies.

The following statement gives the number of contesting candidates, the seats won and the votes secured by each party in the mid-term elections for the assembly in 1969 :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	—	29,807
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	7	—	36,356
Communist Party of India	3	—	48,955
Communist Party (Marxist)	1	—	4,981
Indian National Congress	8	3	1,54,493
Kisan Mazdoor Party	1	—	548
Mazdoor Parishad	1	—	1,630
Praja Socialist Party	2	—	6,758
Republican Party of India	1	—	7,155
Samyukta Socialist Party of India	5	2	64,505
Swatantra Party of India	1	—	4,149
Independents	10	3	1,11,844

On October 1, 1970, the State was again placed under President's rule, though for a few days only and on October 18, the ministry was formed in the State by the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal. This ministry also did not last for more than five months.

In the wake of large scale defections the Congress (R) managed to muster absolute majority in the State Assembly and formed the government in April, 1971.

But in June, 1973 the Congress ministry resigned and the State was placed under President's rule once again, which was revoked in November, 1973 by the formation of ministry by the Congress.

For the general elections of 1974 to the legislative assembly, the number of constituencies in the district remained unchanged.

The following statement gives some details of the elections of 1974 :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	7	—	27,210
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	8	1	98,009
Communist Party of India	2	1	24,339
Communist Party (Marxist)	1	—	2,807
Indian National Congress	7	6	1,99,553
Indian National Congress (Organisation)	6	—	92,804
Lok Tantrik Dal	2	—	1,144
Socialist Party of India	6	—	16,920
Swatantra Party of India	4	—	3,525
Independents	30	—	91,937

#### Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council)

For election to the Vidhan Parishad the district is included in the following three constituencies—Deoria-cum-Ballia Local Bodies, Varanasi Graduates and Varanasi Teachers.

#### Lok Sabha (House of the People)

In the elections of 1957, Ballia was divided into two single-member constituencies, namely Rasra and Ballia.

The following statement gives the results of the elections of 1957 :

Name of Party	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	—	32,311
Communist Party of India	2	1	1,13,234
Indian National Congress	2	1	1,59,578
Praja Socialist Party	2	—	95,563

In the elections of 1962 there was no change in the number of constituencies. The following statement gives the results of the general elections of 1962 :

Name of Party	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	—	10,873
Communist Party of India	1	1	88,253
Indian National Congress	2	1	1,85,719
Praja Socialist Party	2	—	1,09,817
Socialist Party of India	2	—	44,835

There was only one constituency in Ballia for the general elections of 1967, which was the Ballia parliamentary constituency. The results of the elections of 1967 are given in the following statement :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	—	39,852
Indian National Congress	1	1	64,643
Samyukta Socialist Party	1	—	44,930
Swatantra Party of India	1	—	8,742
Independents	9	—	84,474

Ballia was the only constituency in the district for the fifth elections to the House of the People in 1971.

The following statement shows the results of the elections of 1971 :

Name of Party/Independents	Number of contestants	Seats won	Valid votes polled
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	1	—	22,323
Congress (Organisation)	1	—	50,207
Congress (Ruling)	1	1	1,67,724
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	6,111
Independents	3	—	10,416

### Newspapers and Periodicals

Some particulars regarding the Hindi dailies, weeklies the magazines and periodicals published in the district are given in the statement below :



Name of organ/periodical	periodicity	Year of Commencement	No. of copies in circulation	Subject dealt with
<b>Hindi</b>				
Ka Anchlik	Daily	1969	6,426	News and current affairs
Antarlok	Daily	1969	—	—
Bhrigukshetra	Daily	1969	—	—
Yugantar	Daily	1956	—	—
Ballia Samachar	Weekly	1965	5,588	News and current affairs
Ballia Times	Weekly	1970	5,125	"
Bhrigukshetra	Weekly	1969	1,977	"
Kutaz	Weekly	1963	500	"
Vihan	Weekly	1953	2,000	"
Yugantar	Weekly	1956	2,000	"
Vaidehi Krishi Patrika	Monthly	1967		Agriculture

### Other Periodicals

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Some of the popular dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies that are published outside the district but are read by the people of district, are listed in the following statement :

Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
<b>Hindi</b>			
Bharat	Dharmyuga	Mukta	Maya
Hindustan	Saptahik	Sarita	Chandamama
	Hindustan		Niharika
Navjeevan			Kadambini
Nav Bharat Times			Madhuri
Swatantra Bharat			Parag
English			Lotepote
Times of India	Blitz	Caravan	Life
The Hindustan Times	Link	Filmfare	Mirror
The Statesman	The Observer	Star and Style	Imprint
Indian Express	The Illustrated Weekly of India		Picturepost
			Continued

Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Northern India Patrika	Pastime		Reader's Digest
The Pioneer National Herald	Sportsweek		
Urdu Pratap	Tej		Shama
Milap	Aajkal		Bee'wi Sadi
Qaumi Awaz			

### VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

There are some voluntary social service organisations in the district for looking after certain social and economic aspects of the community in general and the special needs of socially neglected groups in particular. In the past, these institutions were mostly dependent on philanthropic and missionary zeal but with the posting to the district in 1957, of a district Harijan welfare officer under the auspices of the Harijan Sahayak department of the State and also with the amalgamation of the Harijan Sahayak and social welfare departments in 1961, efforts were started to strengthen these organisations and to co-ordinate their activities and those of the governmental institutions in the field.

The Janta Sewa Mandal was established in 1951 and has many branches all over Uttar Pradesh and one in the district. It establishes dispensaries, schools and libraries. It is managed by a committee consisting of 20 members. It works for the welfare of the general public. It constructed buildings for a men's hospital and an other for a women's hospital in which government is running its hospitals.

The Bharti Bhawan library was established in 1956 with headquarters at Gaighat in the Reoti development block. It is managed by a committee. Its aim is to establish libraries, reading-rooms and to organise cultural gatherings. It has some provision for adult and women's education also.

The Vedic Anathalaya (orphanage) was established at Ballia in 1921. It has its own building and some land and is managed by a committee.

### Institution for Community Welfare

The Zila Apradh Nirodhak Samiti which is working in the district, is a branch of the Uttar Pradesh crime prevention society. Its aims are the prevention of crime rehabilitation of prisoners and to look after other problems of convicts outside the jail concerning their home, family, property, etc. It also renders monetary help to them.

Branches of the Harijan Sewak Sangh, the Dalit Vurga Sangh and the Rabidas Sabha exist in the district and render social service in the uplift of Harijans and the backward and less privileged groups (such as the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, etc).

## CHAPTER XIX

### PLACES OF INTEREST\*

#### **Bairia (Pargana and tahsil Ballia)**

The town of Bairia lies in Lat. 25°46' N. and Long. 84°29' E. and is situated on the south-west of the district headquarters. It is 36 km. distant from the district headquarters with which it is connected by a metalled road and about 6 km south of the Saremaipur railway station. It has an area of 9.46 sq. km. and a population of 12,764.

The place is said to have grown out of a hamlet founded by and named after one Bairi. It acquired importance gradually as a market for the produce of the doab area, maize being the main item of trade.

During the Quit India movement (of 1942), which roused the passion of the masses, a mob attacked the Bairia police-station and hoisted the tricolour on its building on August 15, 1942, which was removed by the police. The infuriated mob, numbering about 25,000, raided the police-station again on August 18, making numerous attempts to rehoist the flag. The police responded by a volley of bullets, resulting in the death of at least 20 persons. This sacrifice of the people is marked by a martyr's memorial constructed in the Chowk.

The place is famous for a big fair, locally known as the 'Sudhist Baba' fair, which is held in December and continues for a fortnight.

Bairia has an inspection house maintained by the Zila Parishad, a cold storage, a police-station, a co-operative seed store, an intermediate college for boys, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, a maternity and child welfare centre, a veterinary hospital, an allopathic dispensary, a cattle pound and an artificial insemination centre.

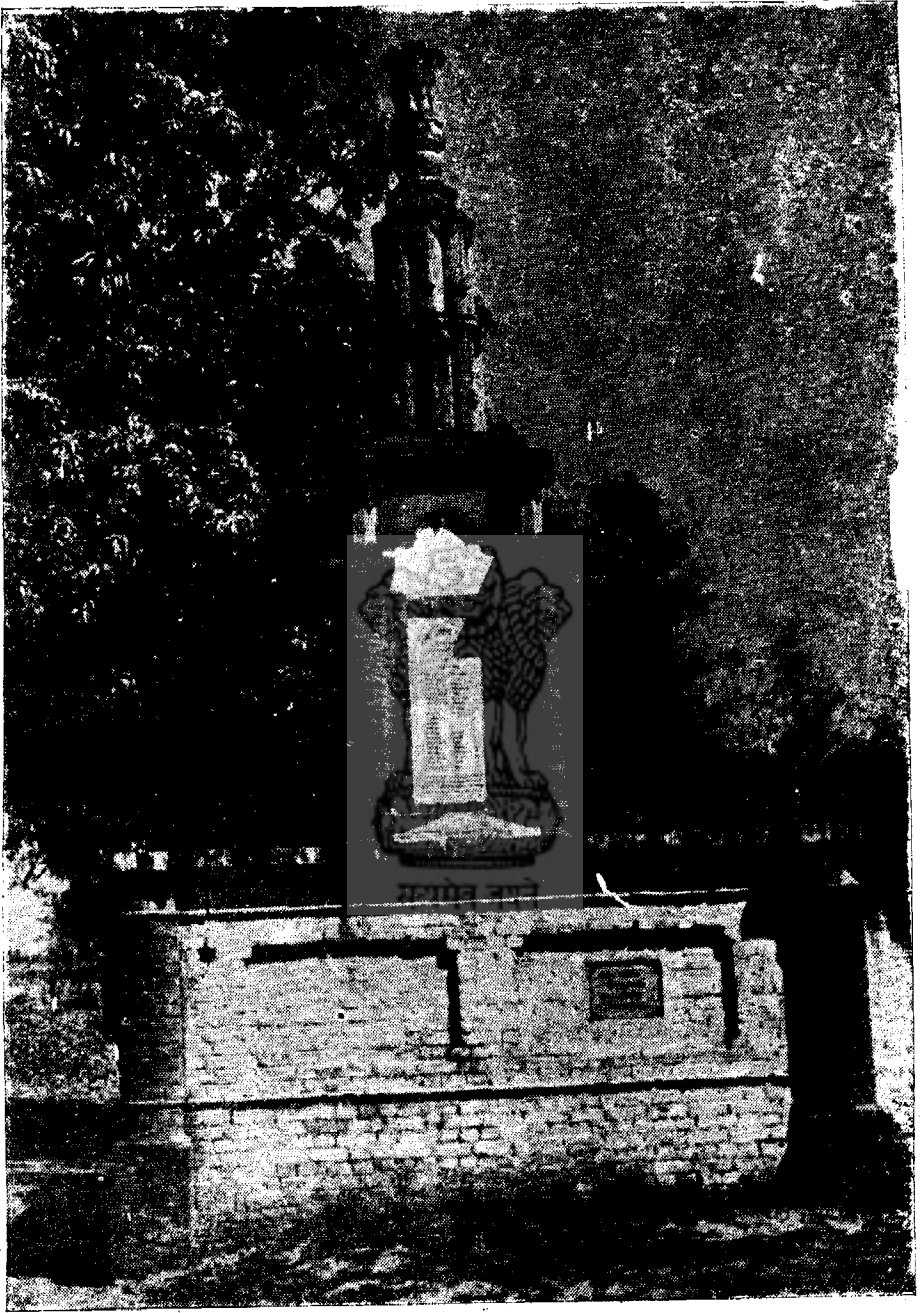
The place is also the headquarters of a block which has a population of 1,21,294 and an area of 18,972 ha.

#### **Ballia (Pargana and tahsil Ballia)**

The town which also gives its name to the district, is situated on the Ganga in the south eastern aspect of the district and lies in Lat. 25°45' N and Long. 84°9' E. It has an area of 16.11 sq. km. and a population of 47,101.

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\*The figures of area and population in the chapter based on 1971 census.



Martyrs Memorial, Bairia

Ballia is said to have derived its nomenclature from Valmiki, the celebrated author of the *Ramayana*. Another tradition has it that it derived its name from *balua* (sand) and another traditional association of the place is with the ancient sage, Bhrigu (this tract also being referred to as Bhirgu Kshatriya) who is said to have sojourned here. Thousands of rishis are said to have performed puja here. A fine temple, known as Bhrigu Mandir, in the south-east of the town on the Ballia-Bairia road, contains the idols of Bhrigu and his disciple, Dadar Muni. The Dadri fair, which is held in honour of the latter, on Kartiki Purnima, attracts about 5 lakh persons. These legends bear witness to the antiquity of the place. Ballia has also been identified with the site of the Buddhist temple of the 'Vas. Solitude' mentioned by the Chinese pilgrims, Fa-hien and Hsuen Tsang.

The town of Ballia was originally located at the confluence of the river Saryu or Tons and the Katehar Nala, the former flowing into the Ganga a little distance away. The old town was destroyed by the erosive action of the Ganga between 1873 and 1877. Houses and buildings were subsequently set up further north from the river but before long the new site was also threatened by the river. Between 1890 and 1893, many of the new town and ahsil buildings were washed away due to recurring floods, the court buildings also being threatened. The district headquarters was shifted to Korantadih in the southernmost corner of the district. From 1895 onwards, the tendency of the river to shift to the opposite side was noticed and a new site on the northern side of the river was selected. The new buildings were completed by 1901 and the headquarters of the district was moved to the present site on March 23, 1901. Further erosion of the Ganga appeared imminent in 1904 and sections of the population were compelled to abandon their homes. In order to provide accommodation for them, a fresh site was chosen immediately to the south of the present railway station.

A memorial raised in the Shaheed Park, in the central Chowk area of the town stands as a testimony of respect to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives here during the freedom struggle of 1942.

The place has a grain market for wheat, rice, maize, potato, gur, sugar and other agricultural products of the district and is the distributing centre for goods manufactured outside the district. Ballia was raised to the status of a municipality in November, 1871.

For civic administration Ballia is divided into seven wards. The place has 4 degree colleges, 4 higher secondary schools for boys, 2 higher secondary schools for girls, 24 primary schools, 3 cinema houses, a public library, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre, a cattle pound, an allopathic hospital, a branch of the Sitapur eye hospital, maternity and child welfare centre, a Kotwali, an inspection house maintained by the public works department, 2 churches, an officer's club, a police club, a railway club, a dharmshala and 5 banks.

The place has two beautiful spots—Surha Tal and Konratadih, which have the potential for being developed into picnic or tourist

centres. A big cattle fair, known as the Dadri fair, is held here during the month of November.

### **Bansdih (pargana Kharid, tahsil Bansdih)**

Administered as a town area since 1856 and forming the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name, this place is situated in that 25°58' N. and Long. 84°14' E., 17 km. north of the town of Ballia. It also forms the headquarters of a development block which has an area of 32,567 ha. and a population of 1,41,821.

Little is known of its early history though tradition states that it lay in the heart of the Cheru country or the region under the domain of the Cheru Rajputs who are said to have been regaining here in mediaeval times. It was the centre of great activity during the freedom struggle of 1942. When the freedom fighters were captured the police-station and the tahsil and remained in control of the place for approximately ten days.

The place has a primary health centre, a female dispensary, an artificial insemination centre, a veterinary hospital, a higher secondary school, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, a family planning centre and a cattle pound. It also serves as a prominent export centre of potatoes to various parts of the district and other parts of the Country. The population of the town is 10,773 which is spread over an area of 4.49 sq. km.

There are two cold storage units functioning here in addition to a few units manufacturing wooden furniture. A weekly market is held here every Sunday.

### **Baragaon (pargana Kopachit East tahsil Ballia)**

The town also known as Chit Baragaon, lies in Lat. 25°45' N. and Long. 84°1' E., and is located 18 km. west of Ballia and is the principal residence of Kaushik Rajputs, whose saint, Bhikha Shah held a high position in their community. His followers had a monastery at Baragaon which contains the tombs of the departed leaders of the sector. It has an area of 1.55 sq. km. and a population of 11,593.

The place also gives its name to a railway station and has a higher secondary school for boys, a junior Basic school, an Ayurvedic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre and a hospital.

There are some *dal* mills here and two units manufacturing leather shoes in addition to a few others manufacturing wooden furniture and ropes.

### **Belhari (pargana and tahsil Ballia)**

Situated 23 km. east of the district headquarters in Lat. 25°47' N. and Long. 84°20' E., this place falls within the police station of Haldi and forms the headquarters of a development block of the same name. The village is subjected to frequent erosion by the Ganga, a considerable portion being swept away periodically.

Belhari has an area of 6.72 sq. km. and a population of 7,254.

The block, to which this place gives its name, has a population of 70,351. It has 6 *nyaya* panchayats and covers an area of 15,347 ha. It has a junior Basic school, a maternity and child welfare centre, a veterinary hospital and an agricultural seed store.

#### **Beruavibari (pargana Kharid, tahsil Bansdih)**

Located in Lat. 25°51' N. and Long. 84°4' E., on the south-west of the tahsil headquarters, 7 km. from the latter and 20 km. from the district headquarters, Beruavibari also forms the headquarters of a block of the same name which is the smallest development block in the district with an area of 11,493 ha. and a population of 66,892 and 7 *nyaya* panchayats. This block has the highest percentage of irrigated area in the district.

It possesses a higher secondary school, a junior Basic school, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre, a cattle pound and a primary health centre. The place has an area of 0.96 sq. km. and a population of 927.

Surha Tal, a big perennial lake in a beautiful setting, is easily accessible from this place.

#### **Chilkahar (pargana Kopachit West, tahsil Rasra)**

This place is situated in Lat. 25°49' N. and Long. 83°59' E., 21 km. from the district and 12 km. from the tahsil headquarters. It is described as the principal village of the Chilkahar taluka. It has an area of 4.48 sq. km. and a population of 2,319. It also gives its name to the headquarters of a development block which covers an area of 22,378 ha. and has a population of 1,03,899. It has 7 *nyaya* panchayats.

It has a higher secondary school, a Senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre, a primary health centre and a co-operative seed store.

#### **Dubhand (pargana and tahsil Ballia)**

Located on the Ballia-Bairia road 8 km. east of Ballia town in Lat. 25°45' N. and Long. 84°16' E., the place gives its name to the headquarters of a development block which for want of accommodation, is situated in Ballia. The population of the place is 4,722 and the area 5.05 sq. km. The population of the block totalled 78,996, which is spread over an area of 12,662 ha. and it has nine *nyaya* panchayats.

The place has a higher secondary school, a junior Basic school, a primary health centre, a veterinary hospital and an artificial insemination centre. It falls within the police circle of Kotwali.

#### **Garwar (pargana Kopachit East, tahsil Ballia)**

Located in Lat. 25°49' N. and Long. 84°2' E., 19 km. from both the district and tahsil headquarters. The place gives its name to a pargana formerly held by Karcholia Rajputs. The place is said to have been founded by the Cheru Rajputs and a small mound near the

village was said to represent the remains of their stronghold. Yet another tradition associates its origin with the Naraujis of Sukhpura, who were killed in a battle with the Avadh official, Mir Rustam Ali, who made a mound with their skulls but the of these traditions is supported by any archaeological finds. The place has an area of 2.9 sq. km. and a population of 3,421 persons.

The place has a junior Basic school, a higher secondary school, a hospital, a maternity and child welfare centre, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre and an inspection house mainly aimed by the department of irrigation. It also forms the headquarters of a block of the same name and is the venue of a religious fair held at the shrine of a local saint, Jangli Baba, held annually during October.

#### **Hanumanganj (pargana and tahsil Ballia)**

Located at a distance of 5 km. from the district headquarters, in Lat. 25°48' N. and Long. 84°9' E., the place gives its name to the headquarters of a block. It is also known as Zirabasti. An important bazar, it was founded more than a century ago by one Ram Manora, a Kandu Brahmana, who established it as a large centre of trade in sugar. It has an area of 1.3 sq. km. and a population of 545.

It has a unit engaged in manufacturing wooden furniture, a temple dedicated to Bhawani, an artificial insemination centre, a family planning centre, a veterinary hospital and a cattle pound. A big fair is held here in April every year.

The Hanumanganj development block is also famous for Surha Tal, said to be the biggest lake in the State and has great potential as a tourist centre and a sanctuary of game birds. In this block deep-water paddy or Jaisuria rice is grown, which attains a height of about 5 m. and has to be reaped with the help of boats.

#### **Husainabad (pargana Kharid, tahsil Bansdih)**

This place is situated in Lat. 25°53' N. and Long. 84°18' E. 8 km. east of Bansdih, the tahsil headquarters and 15 km. north-east of the district headquarters. It is connected by a pakka road to the district headquarters and by a kutchra road to the tahsil headquarters. The name of the place is said to be derived from Husain Shah, the Sharqi king of Jaunpur, and legend has it that the original village was called Kailashdih, the inhabitants of which incurred the displeasure of the ruler who ordered the killing of all the adult males, destroyed the village and built on the ruined site a mosque and a tank which are no longer in existence. The population of the place is 3,357 which is spread over an area of 5.46 sq. km.

The place has a big tank known as Shahi Talab and a tomb dedicated to Hussain Shah Sharqi. It is said to have been administered by a subahdar during the rule of the Sharqis. It also has a few temples dating back to pre-Independence days, namely, Chaturbhuj Mandir, Shiv Mandir and Nathji Mandir.



The place has a higher secondary school, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, a primary health centre, a dispensary for females, an artificial insemination centre, a veterinary hospital and a cattle pound.

**Karon (pargana Garha, tahsil Ballia)**

Situated in Lat.  $25^{\circ}43'$  N. and Long.  $83^{\circ}58'$  E. 44 km. from the district headquarters, this place is said to have derived its name as a corrupt form of Kamaraunya, the garden of Kamdeva (the god of love). Legend traces its association to a temple dedicated to Mahadeva or Siva, located here, which is the venue of a large fair held annually during Phalguna (February-March) which attracts a large gathering.

The place has a junior and a senior Basic school. It has a population of 3,195 which is spread over an area of 6.1 sq. km.

**Kathaura (pargana Sikandarpur East, tahsil Bansdih)**

The place lies in Lat.  $26^{\circ}6'$  N. and Long.  $84^{\circ}2'$  E. and is located 42 km. from the district and 39 km. from the tahsil headquarters, on the banks of the Ghaghra and has a metalled road. It is traditionally assigned an early origin dating back to the time of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Muhammad Ghaff's lieutenant who conquered the adjoining areas of Bengal and Bihar in 1203.

It has a shrine dedicated to Jangli Baba, a local saint, which is the venue of a religious fair held annually in January on Makar Sankranti and also on the full moon day of Kartika.

It has a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, a hospital, a cattle pound, an Ayurvedic dispensary, and a family planning centre. It covers an area of 10.8 sq. km. and has a population of 2,717.

**Kharid (pargana Sikandarpur East, tahsil Bansdih)**

Located in Lat.  $26^{\circ}3'$  N. and Long.  $84^{\circ}8'$  E. 41 km. from the district headquarters and 24 km. from the tahsil headquarters, this place has old but vague historical traditions. It has an area of 1.0 sq. km. and a population of 1,362 persons.

Tradition associates the place with the site of an old city, named Ghazanfarabad, which was supposedly washed away by the Ghaghra. In its place, Sikandar Lodi constructed the town of Sikandarpur but the history of the period is obscure. The site of this old town is perhaps represented by numerous mounds which are to be found on either side of the Ghaghra for a considerable distance.

A popular legend, which ascribes the nomenclature of Kharid (denoting a purchase), is as follows. A merchant from Kashmir, who brought with him 70 camels laden with saffron, had vowed that he would sell the entire quantity to a single purchaser and receive as the price only money coined in a single year. When he came to the court of Khan-i-Azam Khan, the mukhtar of the place

(during the reign of Nusrat Shah), he purchased the entire quantity and paid for it in the prescribed coin. He then mixed all the saffron with the mortar which had been prepared for building a mosque there. In recognition of this the sultan bestowed on him a robe of honour and ordered that the place be called Kharid.

### **Lakhnesar Dih (pargana Lakhnesar, tahsil Rasra)**

This place lies in Lat.  $25^{\circ}48'$  N. and Long.  $83^{\circ}49'$  E., and is located 40 km. from the district headquarters and 7 km. from the tahsil headquarters and is said to derive its name from Lakshmana (brother of Rama) to whom local tradition ascribes the construction of a temple here in honour of Mahadeva or Siva. According to a later legend, the place was a stronghold of the Bhars, who were dispossessed by the Sengars. It has another ancient temple dedicated to Vishnu. It has an area of 0.9 sq. km. and a population of a few persons.

It is the venue of a big fair which is held annually during the spring season.

### **Maniar (pargana Kharid, tahsil Bansdih)**

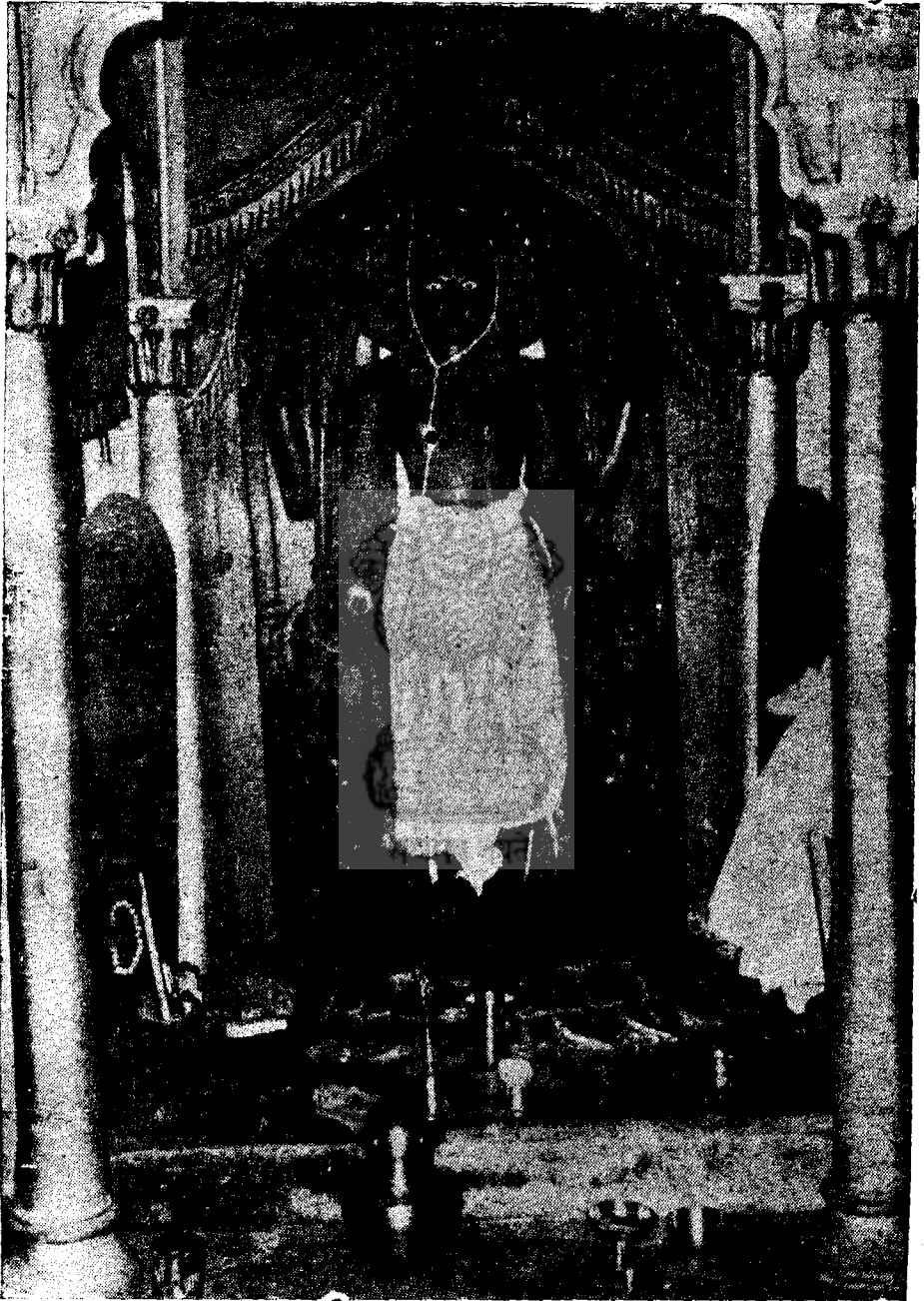
Administered as a town area since 1873, the place lies in Lat.  $25^{\circ}59'$  N. and Long.  $84^{\circ}4'$  E., and is located 33 km from the district and 16 km. from the tahsil headquarters. Its importance is derived from its position on the river Ghaghra which has promoted it to being a prominent centre of the grain trade. The area of Maniar is 3.7 sq. km. and the population 10,602. The place also gives its name to the headquarters of a development block with a population of 1,12,929 and an area of 24,373 ha. It comprises 9 *nyaya* panchayats.

It has a temple dedicated to Brahma Baba also known as Nauka Baba. It also has a temple dedicated to Parushram. A big fair is held here on the Navratri day every year in March-April. It has a higher secondary school, two senior Basic schools, a junior Basic school and a hospital.

### **Murli Chhapara (pargana Doaba, tahsil Ballia)**

The place lies in Lat.  $25^{\circ}43'$  N. and Long.  $84^{\circ}31'$  E., is situated 43 km. east of Ballia and forms the headquarters of a block of the same name. It is situated in the *khadir* or the lowlying area of the Ganga. Its population includes that of Dukti, a hamlet founded by the inhabitants of the village of the same name, which was submerged more than 50 years ago. The place has an area of 1.79 sq. km. and a population of 4,316 persons.

It has a higher secondary school, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre, a cattle pound and a primary health centre. It falls within the jurisdiction of the police-station of Bairaia.



Idol of Lord Vishnu, Lakhneshwar Dih

**Nagra (pargana Sikandarpur West, tahsil Rasra)**

Located in Lat.  $25^{\circ}57'$  N. and Long.  $83^{\circ}53'$  E. 42 km. from the district headquarters and 13 km. from the tahsil headquarters, this place is said to have been founded by one Bhim Sen, of Kuba Newada in district Azamgarh, who settled at Nagra about the year 1623. It has a population of 5,042 persons which is spread over an area of 7.62 sq. km. It gives its name to the headquarters of a development block of the same name, which is the biggest development block of the district, with a population of 1,22,897 and an area of 28,909 ha. It has 16 *nyaya* panchayats.

The place has two higher secondary schools, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, an inspection house maintained by the irrigation department, a hospital, a maternity and child welfare centre, a dispensary, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre and a cattle pound. It has a private T. B. clinic known as Sundaram Chikitsalaya. The principal cash crop produced here is sugar-cane.

**Nawanagar (pargana Sikandarpur East, tahsil Bansdih)**

Situated in Lat.  $26^{\circ}6'$  N. and Long.  $84^{\circ}$  E. at a distance of 43 km. from the district headquarters and 40 km. from the tahsil headquarters, this place gives its name to the headquarters of a development block. It is connected to the district headquarters via the road passing from Bilthra Road to Sikandarpur. It has an area of 0.78 sq. km. and a population of 1,701.

It possesses an intermediate college, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, an allopathic dispensary, a veterinary hospital, a cattle pound and an agricultural seed store.

**Pandah (pargana Sikandarpur East, tahsil Bansdih)**

The place lies Lat.  $26^{\circ}3'$  N. and Long.  $84^{\circ}3'$  E., and is situated at a distance of 32 km. from the district headquarters and 33 km. from the tahsil headquarters. It has an old nullah which is said to have inundated the place frequently, consequent on which the place came to be referred to as Pandah. It has a population of 2,448 and an area of 4.3 sq. km. It gives its name to the headquarters of a development block of the same name which has a population of 1,20,848 and an area of 25,815 ha. It has 10 *nyaya* panchayats.

It possesses a junior Basic school, a primary health centre, a veterinary hospital and an artificial insemination centre.

**Pharsatar (pargana Sikandarpur East, tahsil Rasra)**

Located in Lat.  $26^{\circ}5'$  N. and Long.  $82^{\circ}52'$  E. 56 km. from the district headquarters and 26 km. from the tahsil headquarters, this place gives its name to a *tappa* or tract of land, which was granted to one Baha-ud-din, an Ansari Sheikh, during the reign of Aurangzeb, in recognition of his services in having commanded an expedition against the Bisen raja of Majhauili (in district Deoria). He

settled at Pharsatar and his descendents came into contact with the Bais Rajputs of Nagra at the beginning of the 18th century. Tradition has it that all the Sheikhs lost their lives in the struggle with the solitary exception of a woman called Rahim Bivi.

The Sheikhs subsequently recovered the tract mainly through the exertions of one Khadim Ali, and obtained the recognition of their rights subsequently at the permanent revenue Settlement (made in 1795). The place possesses a junior Basic school, a maternity and child welfare centre and a bazaar where markets are held twice a week. It has a population of 3,165 and an area of 4.7 sq. km.

### **Rasra (pargana Lakhnesar, tahsil Rasra)**

The place, which is the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name situated in Lat  $25^{\circ} 51' N$ . and Long  $83^{\circ} 52' E$ ., 33 km. from the district headquarters. It was inhabited principally by the Sengar Rajputs, Kandus and certain Banias communities. The Sengars realised large sums in ground rents in the town and also market and other dues. Market rents were abolished by the government in 1788, to which the Sengars reacted violently by preparing to resist the order by force. A compromise was reached through the merchants (who had everything to lose by a conflict) after which the ground rents were raised by one half.

Adjoining the town on the west is an extensive grove, containing a tank and a shrine dedicated to Na'h Baba, the patron saint of all Sengars. The place is the site of a big fair lasting about a week, which is held every October during Dasahra.

During the freedom struggle of 1942 the freedom fighters took control of this tahsil and its headquarters in August and hoisted the tricolour on the buildings. When the police fired on a crowd gathered in Gulab Chand Hata, five or six persons were killed.

Rasra has an area of 2.5 sq. km. and a population of 14,042. It has a degree college, 2 higher secondary schools, 3 junior Basic schools, 5 senior Basic schools, a dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre and a cattle pound. It also has some engineering units engaged in manufacturing agricultural tools and implements and a few units engaged in manufacturing shoes. It has a sugar-mill set up in collaboration with the Central Government.

### **Ratnapur (pargana Sikandarpur West, tahsil Rasra)**

Situated in Lat.  $25^{\circ} 55' N$  and Long.  $83^{\circ} 45' E$ , on the western border of the pargana, 46 km. from the district headquarters and 13 km. from the tahsil headquarters, this place gives its name to the headquarters of a development block which was the first

development block to be formed in the district. It has a population of 78,673 and an area covering 20,279 ha. and has 11 *nyaya* panchayats.

It has a degree college, a higher secondary school, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre and a primary health centre. The area of the village is 0.28 sq. km. and the population 93.

### **Reoti (pargana Kharid, tahsil Bansdih)**

The place is situated in Lat. 25° 41'N. and Long. 84° 24'E., 35 km. from the district and 13 km. from the tahsil headquarters, on a low elevation, the surrounding terrain being swampy. Reoti has an area of 4.12 sq. km. and a population of 11,617.

It has an Ayurvedic dispensary, a higher secondary school, an agricultural seed store, a veterinary hospital, an artificial insemination centre, a primary health centre, and a police-station. It also gives its name to the headquarters of a development block which has 8 *nyaya* panchayats, an area of 19,505 ha. and a population totalling 75,219. The place is famous for the cultivation of a variety of green vegetable. It also affords facilities for fishing in the big lake nearby, known as Reoti Dah. A substantial quantity of potatoes is also exported from this place to various parts of the Country.

### **Sahatwar (pargana Kharid, tahsil Bansdih)**

Administered as a town area since 1873, the place is located in Lat. 25° 51'N. and Long. 84° 10'E., 27 km. from the district headquarters and 10 km. on the south-east from the tahsil headquarters. It is said to have been founded by one Mahant Bileswar Nath. A town of considerable size, it witnessed much national fervour and activity during the freedom struggle of 1942, when the police-station, railway station and town area were captured by the freedom fighters and administered by them for about 10 days.

The place serves as a grain market, the cash crops produced being potatoes and tobacco. It has a higher secondary school, a senior Basic school, a junior Basic school, a family planning centre, a maternity and child welfare centre, a co-operative seed-store, an allopathic dispensary, an Ayurvedic dispensary and a police-station. It also has a few units engaged in general engineering works. Saha'war has a population of 10,633 which is spread over an area of 5.25 sq. km.

### **Siar (pargana Sikandarpur West, tahsil Rasra)**

Located in Lat. 26° 8'N. and Long. 83° 50'E., 60 km. north-west of the district headquarters and 32 km. north of the tahsil headquarters, this place forms the headquarters of a development block of the same name. The students here took a leading part in the Quit India movement during August, 1942, many courting arrest and leaving their institutions to participate in the movement.

The place has a degree college, 2 higher secondary schools, a primary health centre, a veterinary hospital and an artificial insemination centre.

It is a thriving inter-district market dealing in chillies, pulses, rice, *gur* and fish.

Siar contains a population of 309 which is spread over an area of 1.5 sq. km.

### **Sikandarpur (pargana Sikandarpur East, tahsil Bansdih)**

The place, one of the oldest towns in the district, is said to derive its name from Sikandar Lodi, who re-established the rule of the Delhi sultans in these parts, following the overthrow of the Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur. Its importance seems to have waned during the time of the Mughals. It is located in Lat.  $26^{\circ} 3' N.$  and Long.  $84^{\circ} 4' E.$ , 34 km. from the district headquarters and 31 km. from the tahsil headquarters and is connected to the district and tahsil headquarters by metalled roads coming from the tahsil headquarters. It has been administered as a town area since 1860. During the 1942 movement, the place witnessed great activity when the thana and police-station were attacked by an enthusiastic crowd and the seed store was ransacked. Sikandarpur has an area of 3.31 sq. km. and a population of 10,219.

It has a higher secondary school, a veterinary hospital, a cattle pound, an inspection house maintained by the Zila Parishad and a co-operative seed store, and is renowned for its perfume industry for which purpose the cultivation of roses and jasmines is undertaken on a major scale. It falls within the development block of Nawanagar.

The place has a temple dedicated to Jalpa Kalpa Devi and a small tank known as Chatarmukh Pokhra. The remains of a trench dating back to the time of Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517) are to be found here. A mosque, known as Shahi Masjid, is yet another old building. Among important fairs held here are the Jalpa Kalpa Devi, fairs held during Durga Puja and Muharram and a local fair known as Hasim Data Ka Mela.

### **Sohaon (pargana Garha, tahsil Ballia)**

Sohaon, situated 34 km. from the district headquarters in Lat.  $25^{\circ} 37' N.$  and Long.  $83^{\circ} 57' E.$ , found its place on the map of the district when it was declared the headquarters of a development block which has an area of 20,923 ha. and a population of 91,311. It has eight *nyaya* panchayats. The area of the place is 3.2 sq. km. and the population 3,378.

It has a higher secondary school, a maternity and child welfare centre and the buildings containing the development block establishment. It also has an agricultural farm where improved methods of agriculture are put into practice for the benefit of the cultivators.

## CONVERSION FACTORS

### Money

1 pie = 0.52 Paise

1 pice = 1.56 Paise

### Linear Measure

1 inch = 2.54 centimetres

1 foot = 30.48 centimetres

1 yard = 91.44 centimetres

1 mile = 1.61 kilometres

### Square Measure

1 square foot = 0.093 square metre

1 square yard = 0.836 square metre

1 square mile = 2.59 square kilometres = 259 hectares

1 acre = 0.405 hectares

### Cubic Measure

1 cubic foot = 0.028 cubic metre

### Measure of Capacity

1 gallon (Imperial) = 0.937 litres

1 seer \*(80 tolas) = 0.937 litres

### Measure of Weight

1 tola = 11.66 grams

1 chhatak = 58.32 grams

1 seer\* = 933.10 grams

1 Maund\* = 37.32 kilograms

1 ounce (Avoirdupois) = 28.35 grams

1 pound (Avoirdupois) = 453.59 grams

1 hundred weight = 50.80 kilograms

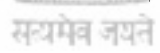
1 ton = 1016.05 kilograms = 1.016 metric tonnes

### Thermometer Scales

$1^{\circ}$  Fahrenheit =  $9/5^{\circ}$  Centigrade + 32

\*As defined in Indian Standards of Weight Act, 1939





सत्यमेव जयते

## GLOSSARY

<i>Ankut</i>	...	To take the return by speculation
<i>Amil</i>	...	An official who collected revenue under the Nawabs of Avadh
<i>Asami</i>	...	A lessee of disabled <i>bhumindhar</i> or of <i>sirdar</i> or tenant of the <i>gaon sabha</i> , having no transferable rights
<i>Ban</i>	...	Thick twine made of <i>moonj</i>
<i>Batai</i>	...	To take half of the produce
<i>Bhumidhar</i>	...	Peasant proprietor having permanent heritable and transferable rights in his holdings
<i>Chini</i>	...	Sugar
<i>Diwani</i>	...	Dual system of government of Lord Clive
<i>Gamcha</i>	...	Scarf
<i>Gaon Samaj</i>	...	Village community
<i>Garha</i>	...	Coarse cloth
<i>Ghani</i>	...	Indigenous oil extracting machine
<i>Ghar</i>	...	House
<i>Gotra</i>	...	Clan
<i>Gur</i>	...	Jaggery
<i>Gurdwara</i>	...	Temple of Sikhs
<i>Havan</i>	...	Fire sacrifice
<i>Idgah</i>	...	Place for offering community prayers of Muslims
<i>Jali</i>	...	Mesh
<i>Kankar</i>	...	Irregular concretions of impure calcareous matter used for making lime
<i>Karbala</i>	...	Burial place for <i>tazias</i>
<i>Khutba</i>	...	A sermon, specially that is preached on
<i>Jhil</i>	...	Lake marriage or in mosque on Friday and on two Ids
<i>Kirana</i>	...	General merchandise
<i>Lekhpal</i>	...	Patwari, village accountant
<i>Maida</i>	...	Fine wheat flour
<i>Mauza</i>	...	Revenue village

<i>Mundan</i>	...	First tonsure ceremony
<i>Nala</i>	...	Nullah
<i>Nazim</i>	...	Governor, head of district with revenue, executive and judicial powers in pre-British days
<i>Nazul</i>	...	The land belonging to government situated within the municipal area, but not belonging to any particular department
<i>Nazran</i>	...	Premium
<i>Pattidars</i>	...	Tenure holders
<i>Patwari</i>	...	Village accountant
<i>Payals</i>	...	Anklets
<i>Payjama</i>	...	Loose trouser
<i>Qanungo</i>	...	A petty revenue official
<i>Qazi</i>	...	Judge, who also solemnises Muslim marriages
<i>Resha</i>	...	Fibre
<i>Roli</i>	...	Vermillion powder
<i>Sherwani</i>	...	A long coat worn by men
<i>Sir</i>	...	Land cultivated by the owner
<i>Sirda</i>	...	A holder of the land having only cultivation rights but no right to transfer the holdings
<i>Stupa</i>	...	Pillar
<i>Suji</i>	...	Granular wheat product
<i>Swadeshi</i>	...	Indian made goods
<i>Swaraj</i>	...	Independence
<i>Taluqa</i>	...	Administrative unit
<i>Tappa</i>	...	Tract of land
<i>Taqavi</i>	...	Advance of money given to cultivators with or without interest
<i>Tazia</i>	...	An imitation of the tombs of Hasan and Husain, generally made of coloured paper and bamboo
<i>Tika</i>	...	Red mark on the forehead
<i>Tikuli</i>	...	A small circular piece either of metal or plastic pasted in the centre of the forehead
<i>Tirthankar</i>	...	In Jainism, expounder of religion, deified hero or saint
<i>Usar</i>	...	Barren
<i>Urs</i>	...	Commemoration of death anniversary of Muslim saint at his tomb
<i>Vaid</i>	...	Practitioner of Ayurvedic system of medicine
<i>Zardozi</i>	...	Embroidery work

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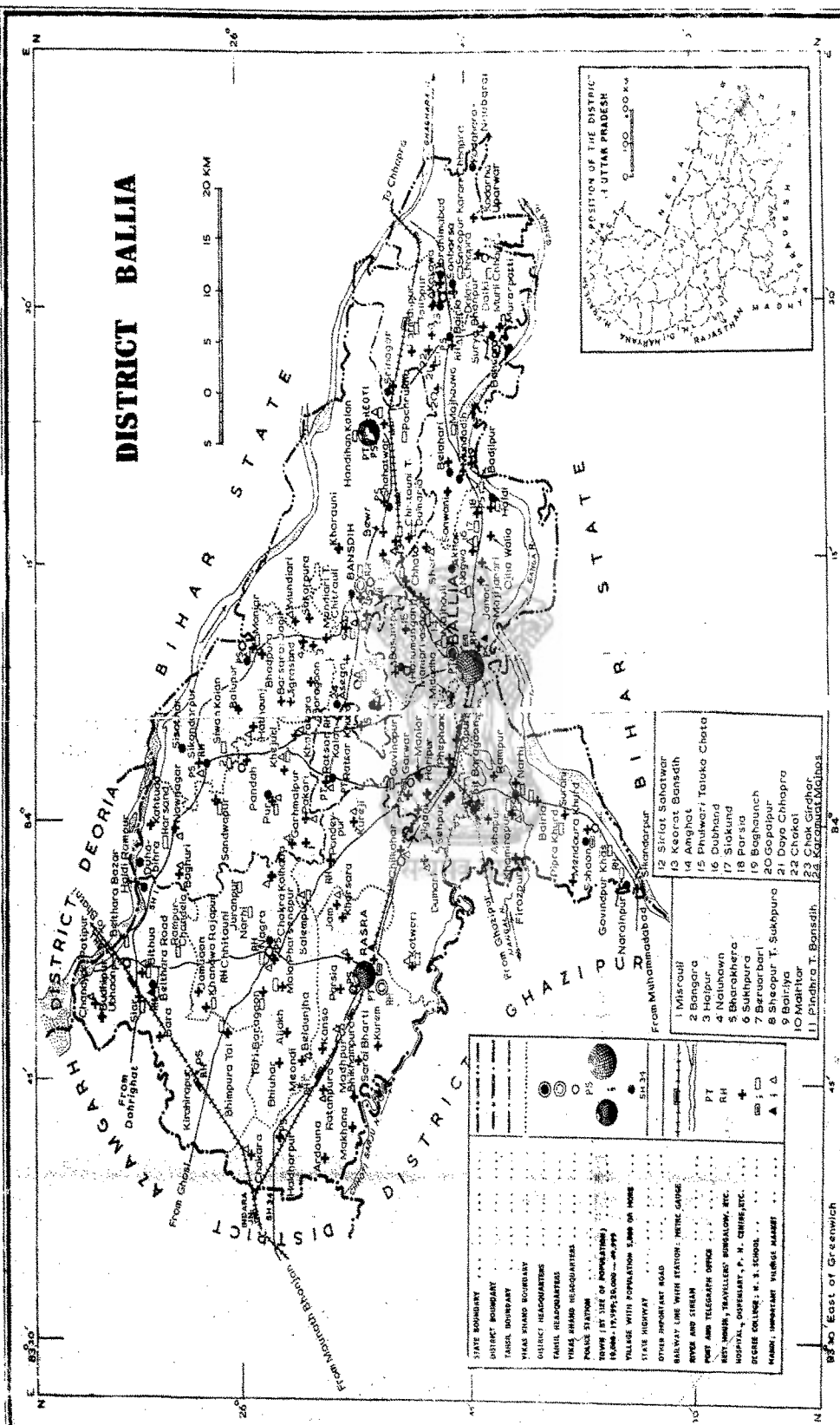


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